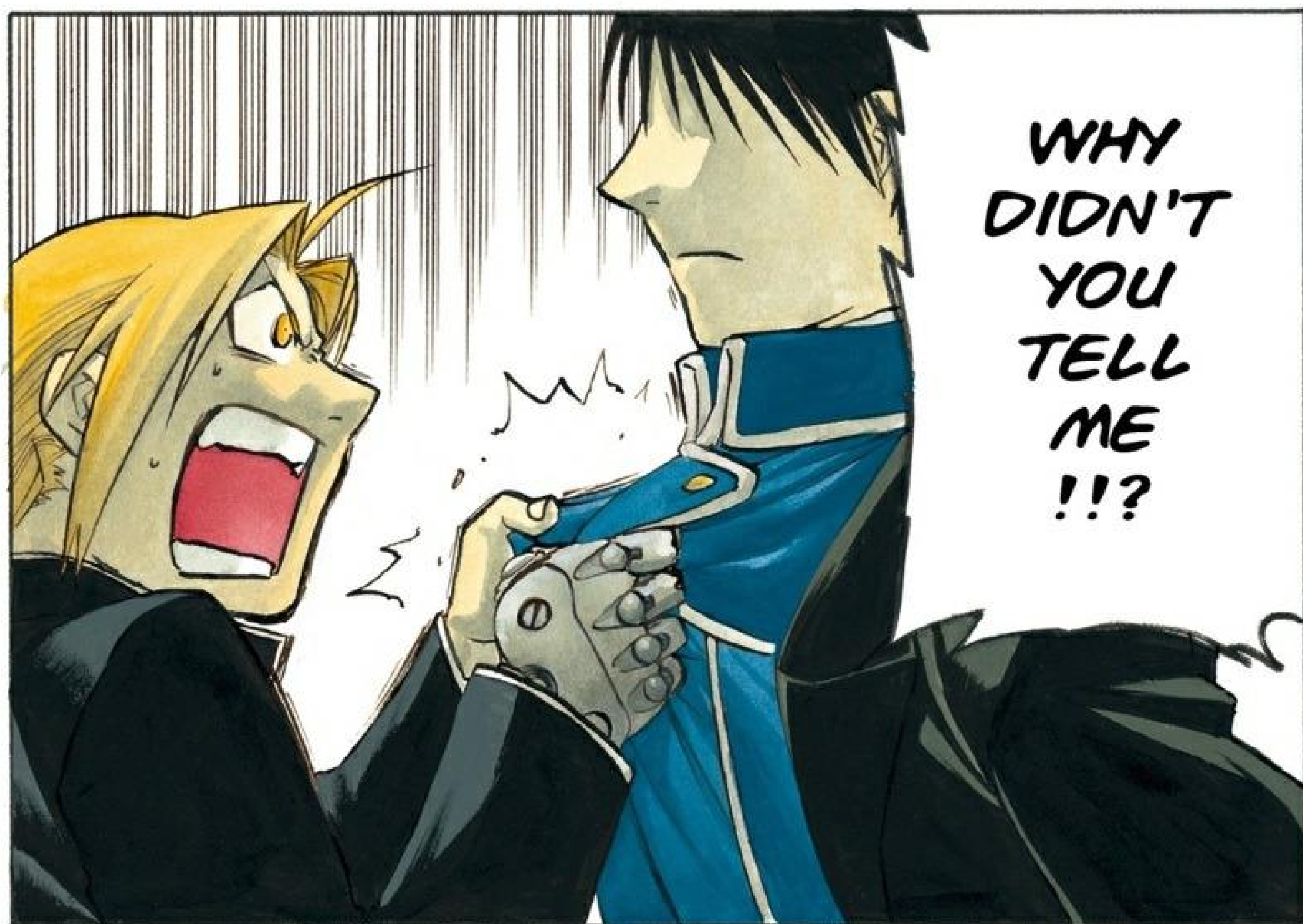
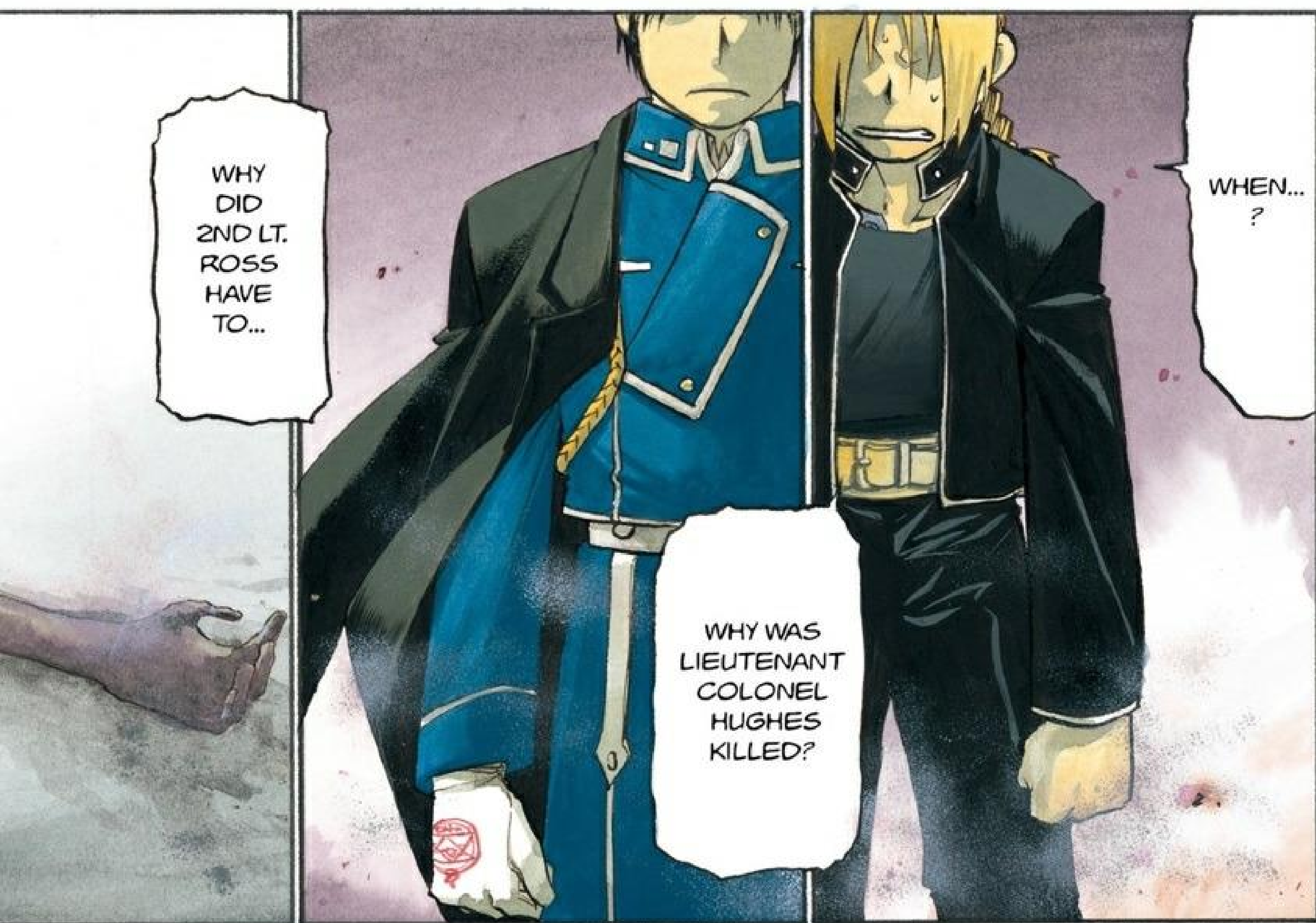




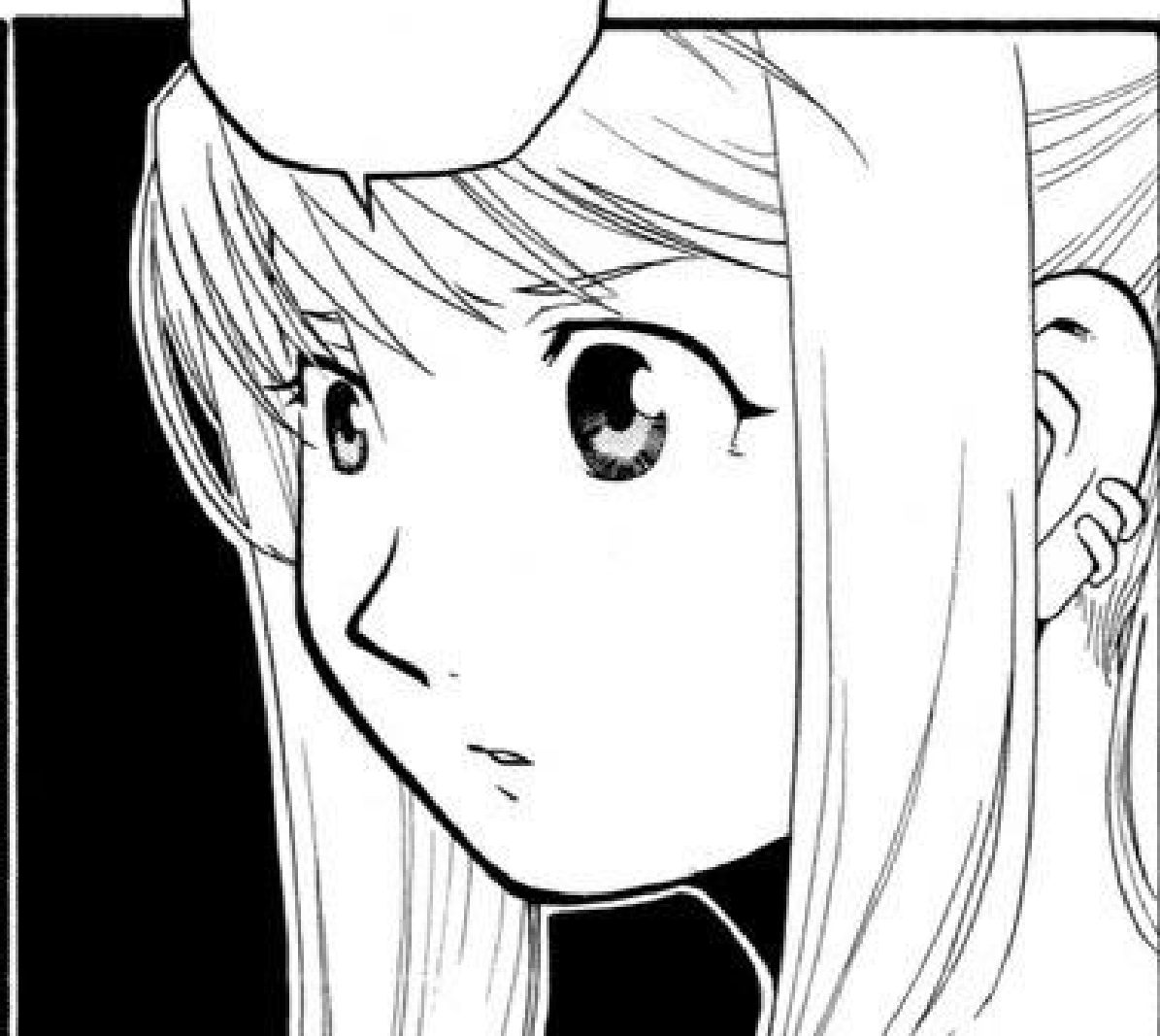
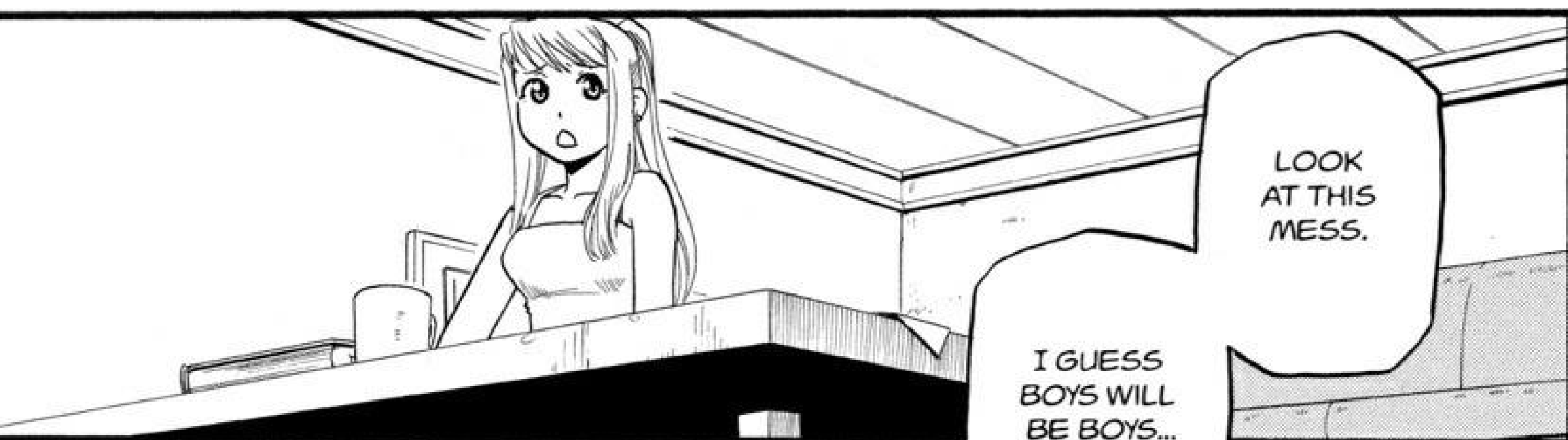


Chapter 36
Alchemist in Distress

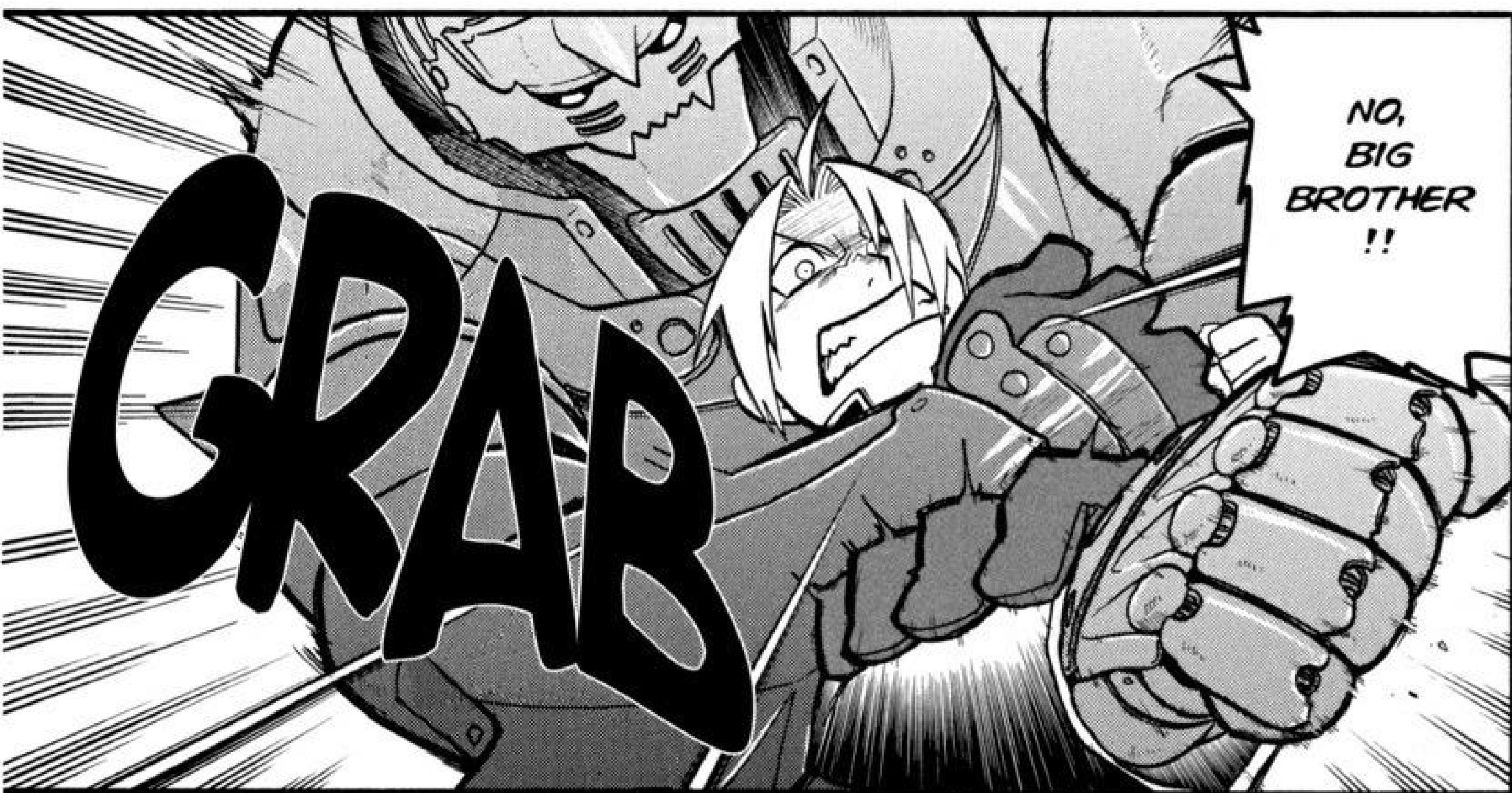
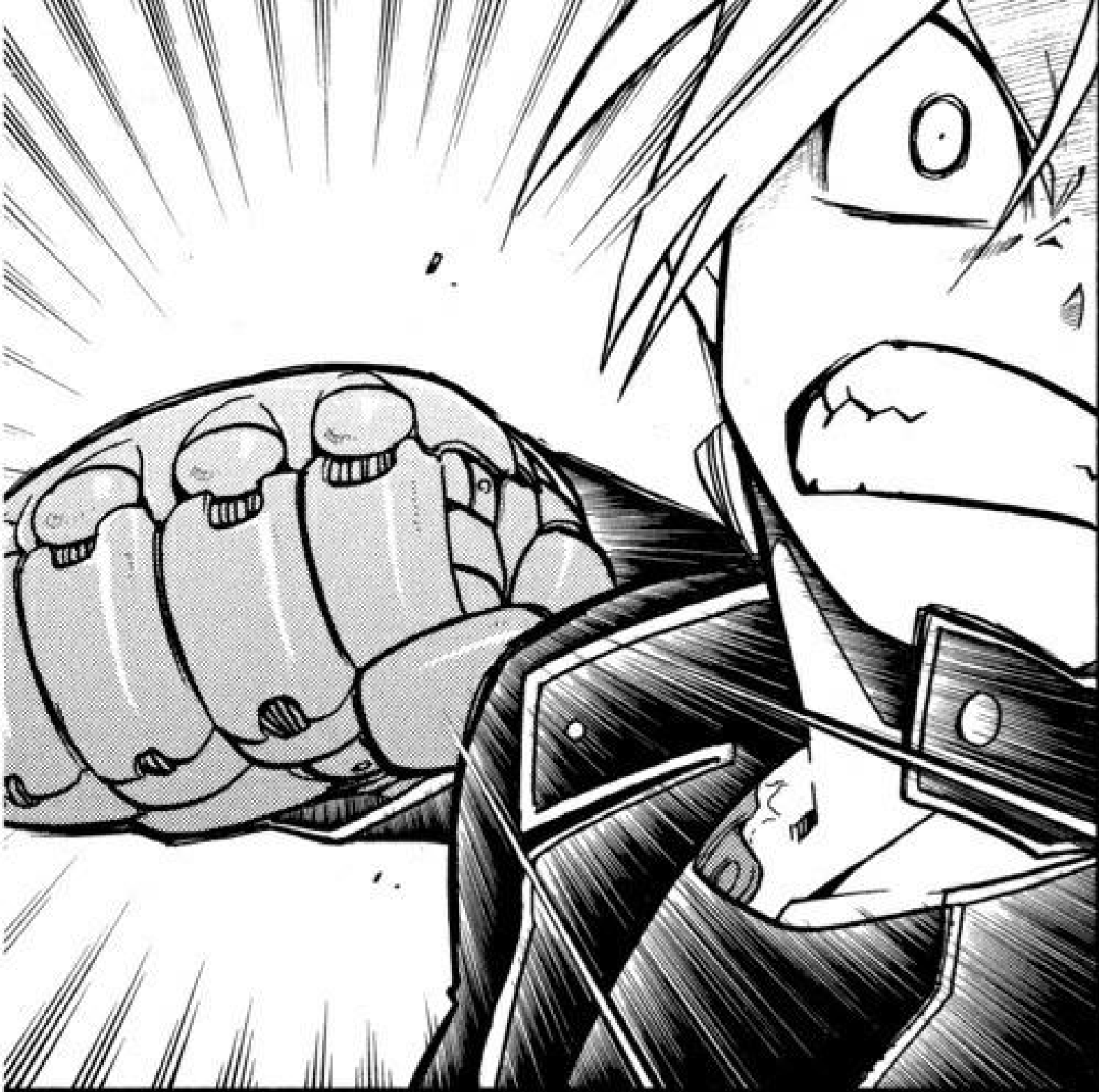




FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST







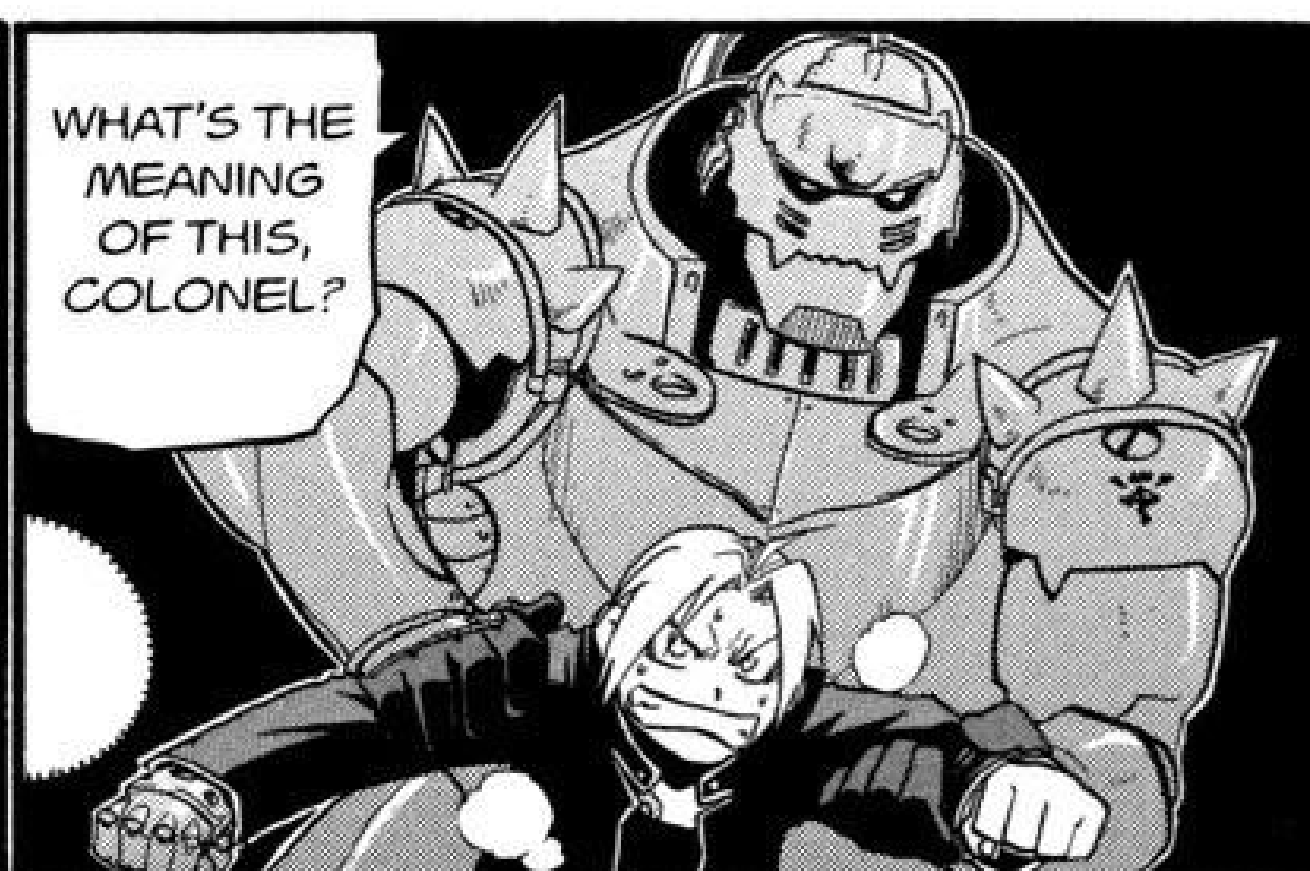


SECOND
LIEU-
TENANT
ROSS!?

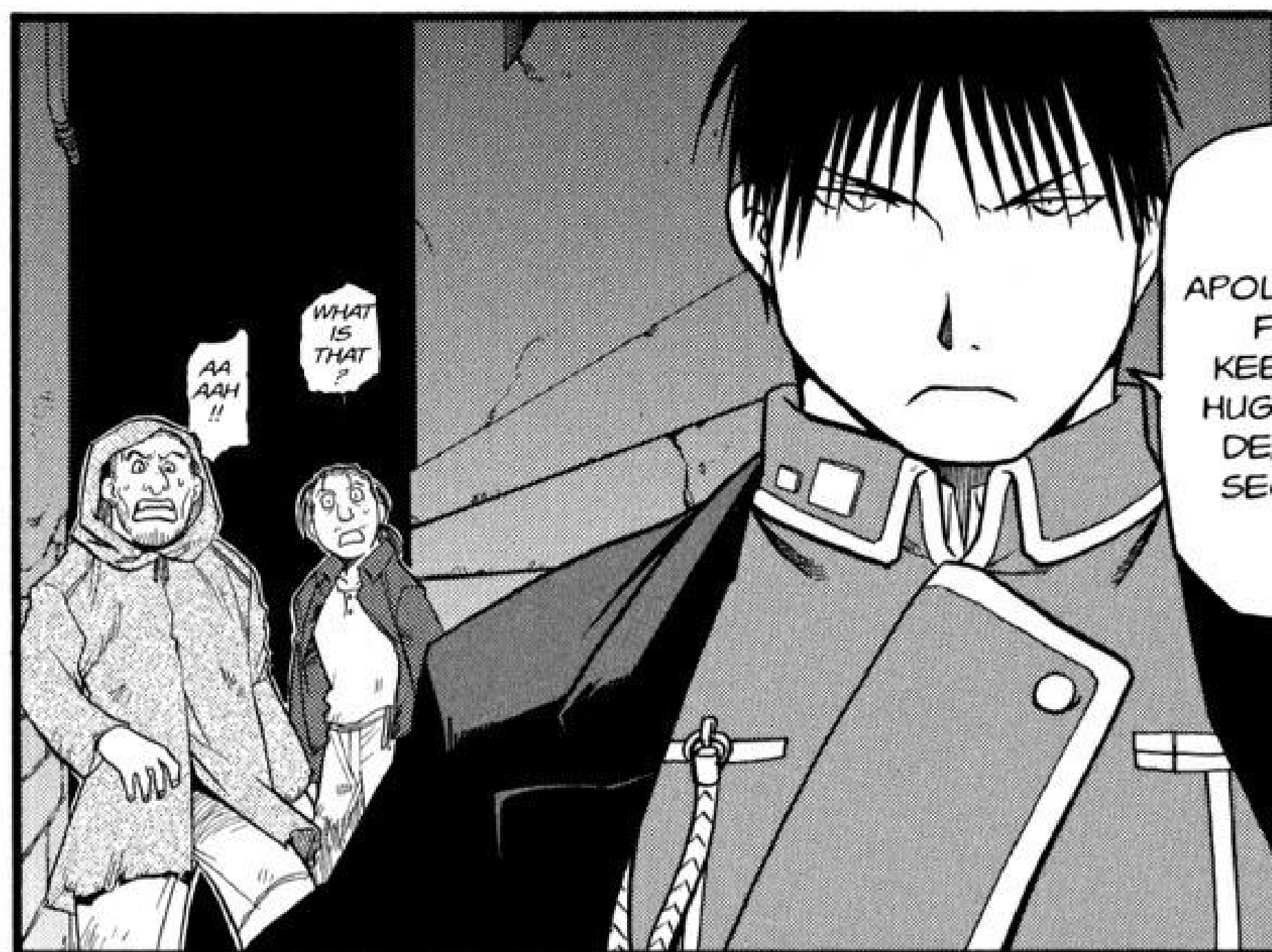


THERE'S
NOTHING
MORE
TO
SAY.

MARIA ROSS
WAS CONVICTED
OF MURDERING
HUGHES. WHEN
SHE ESCAPED
FROM PRISON,
ORDERS WERE
TO *SHOOT*
TO KILL.



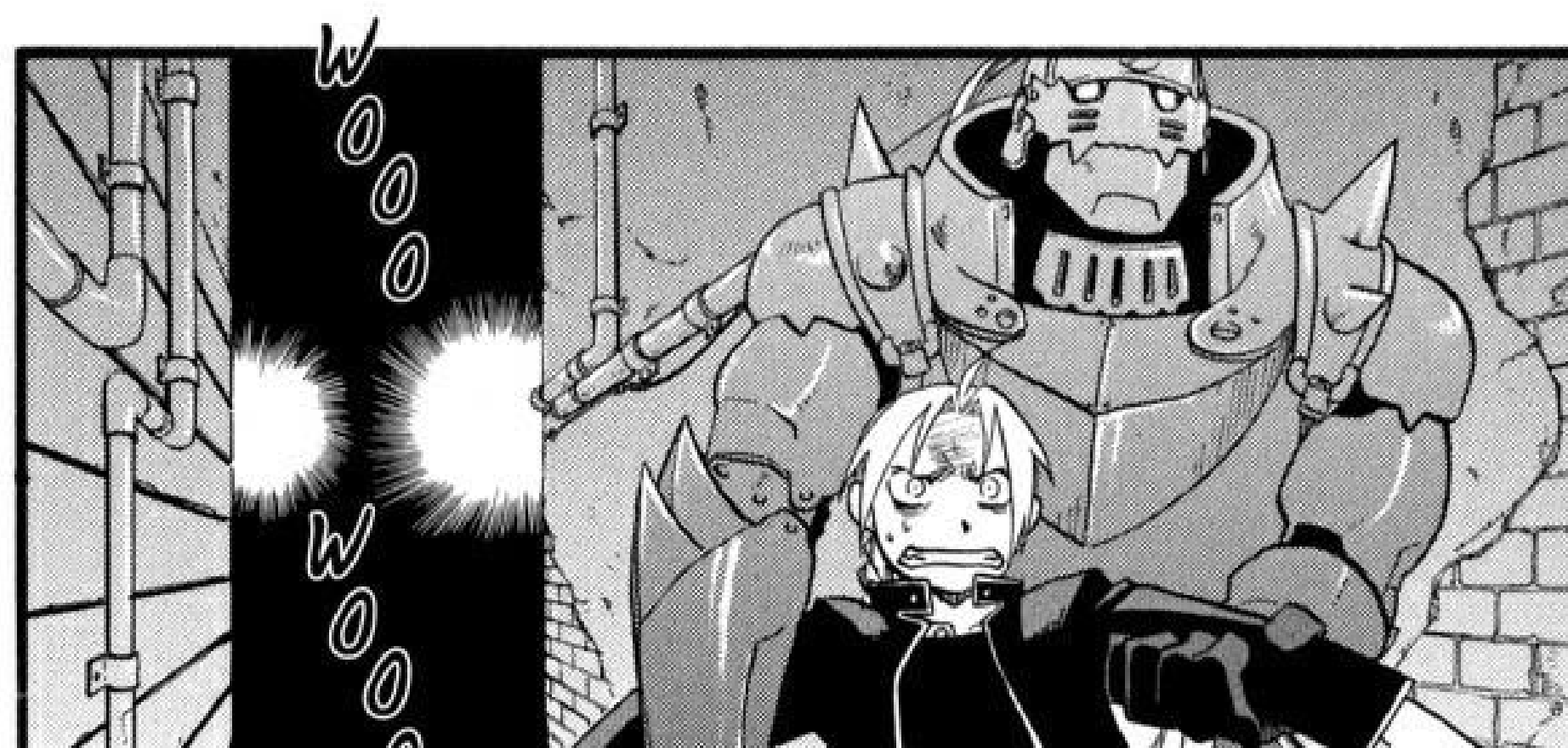
WHAT'S THE
MEANING
OF THIS,
COLONEL?



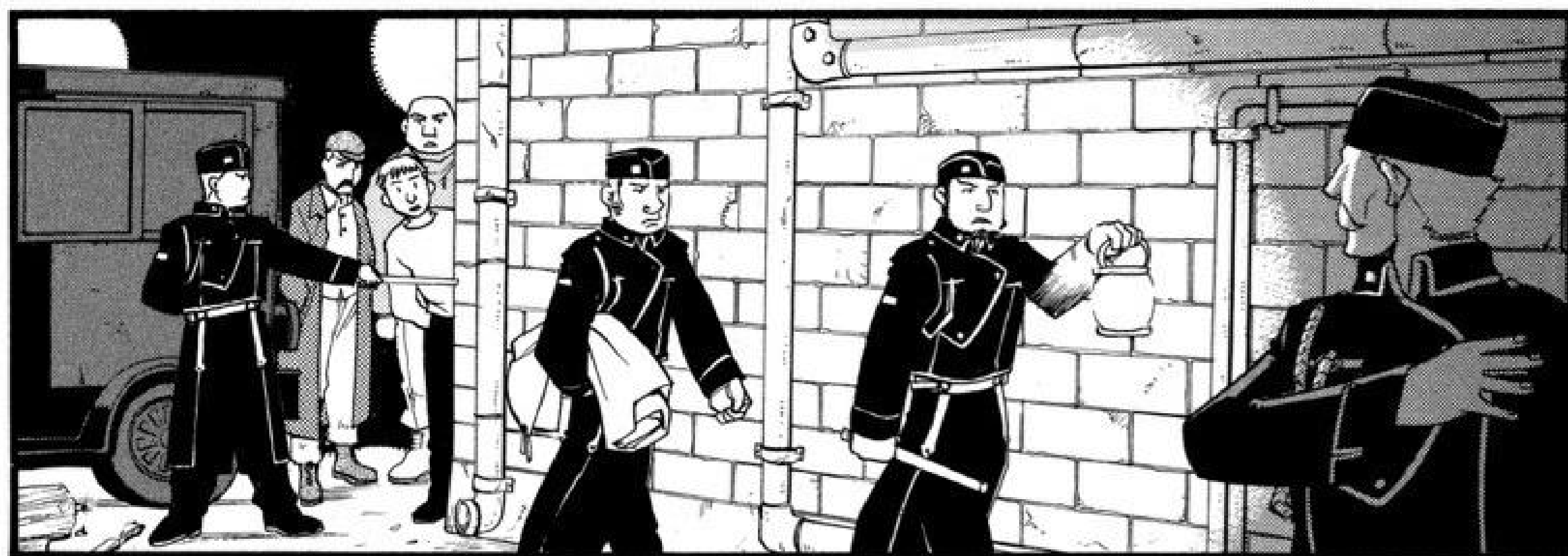
I
APOLOGIZE
FOR
KEEPING
HUGHES'S
DEATH A
SECRET.

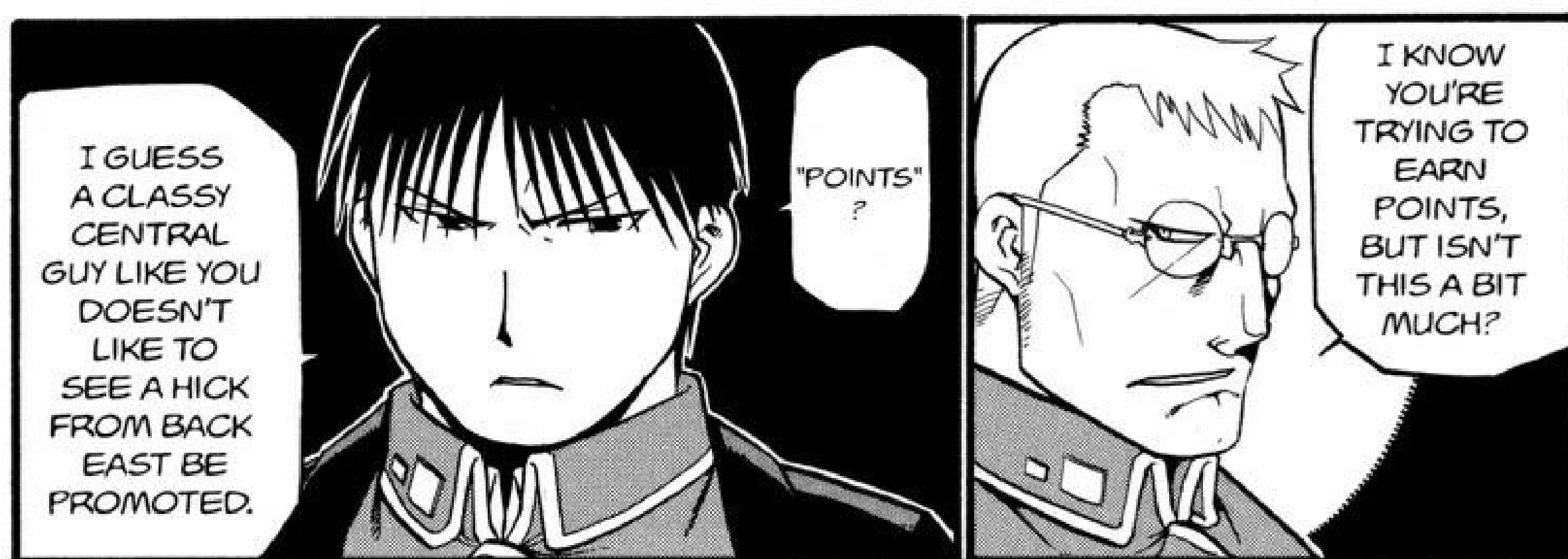
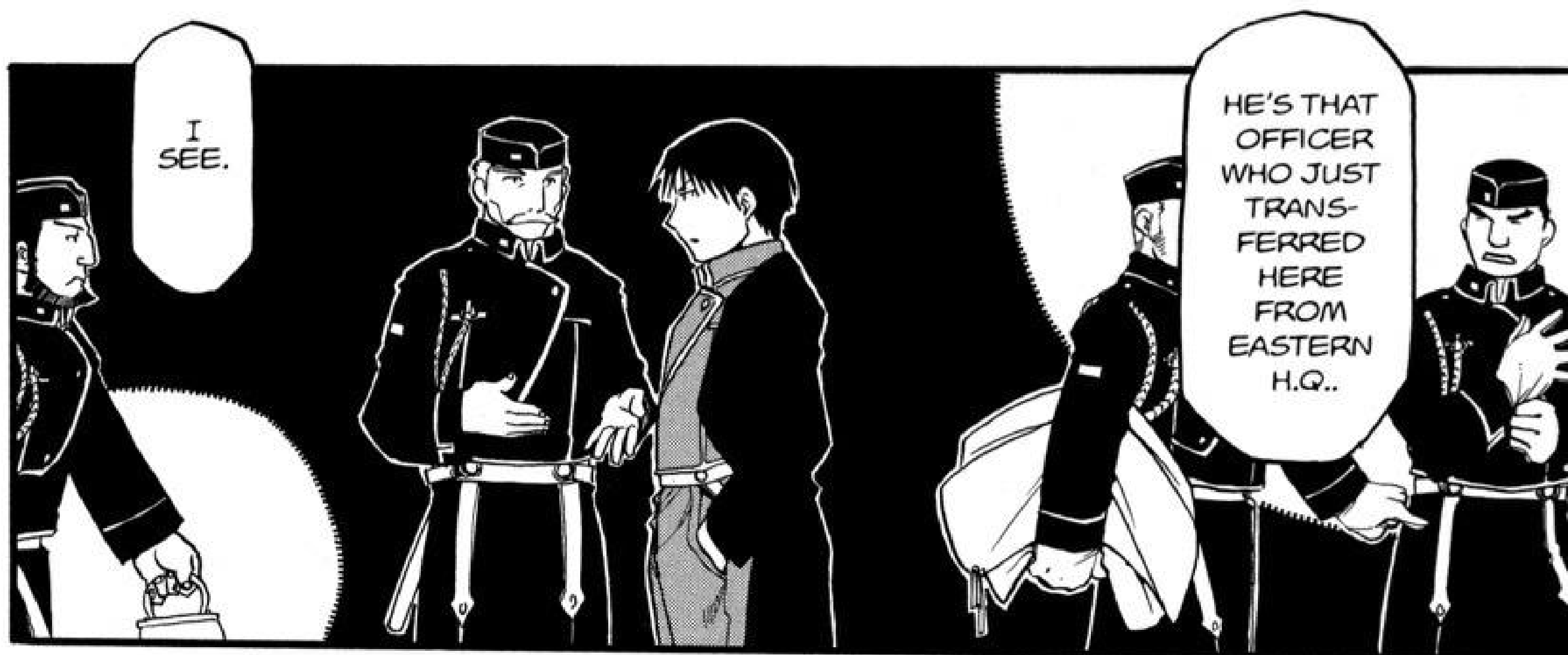


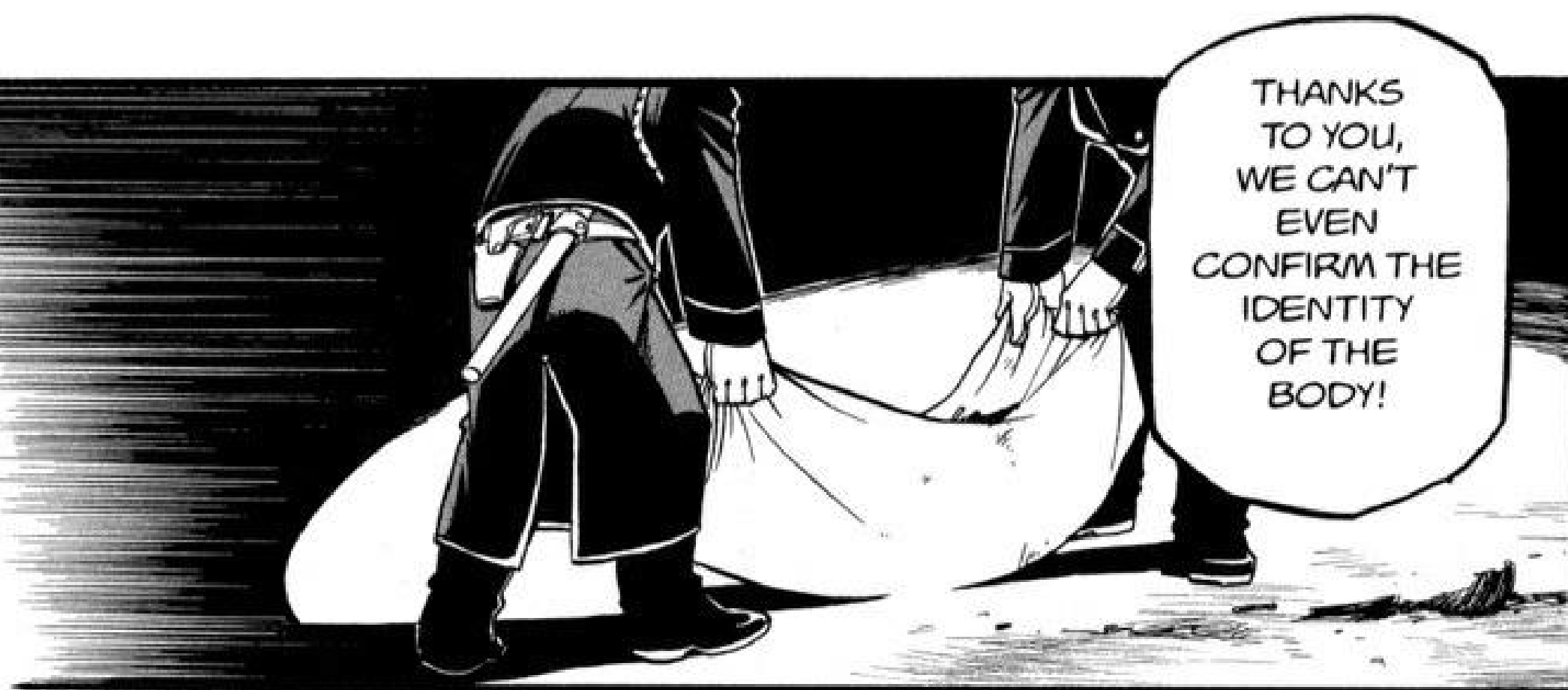
THAT
DOESN'T
EXPLAIN
ANYTHING
!!



WOOO
WOOO







THANKS
TO YOU,
WE CAN'T
EVEN
CONFIRM THE
IDENTITY
OF THE
BODY!



SO HE
WAS KILLED
FOR
KNOWING
TOO MUCH
ABOUT THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE...



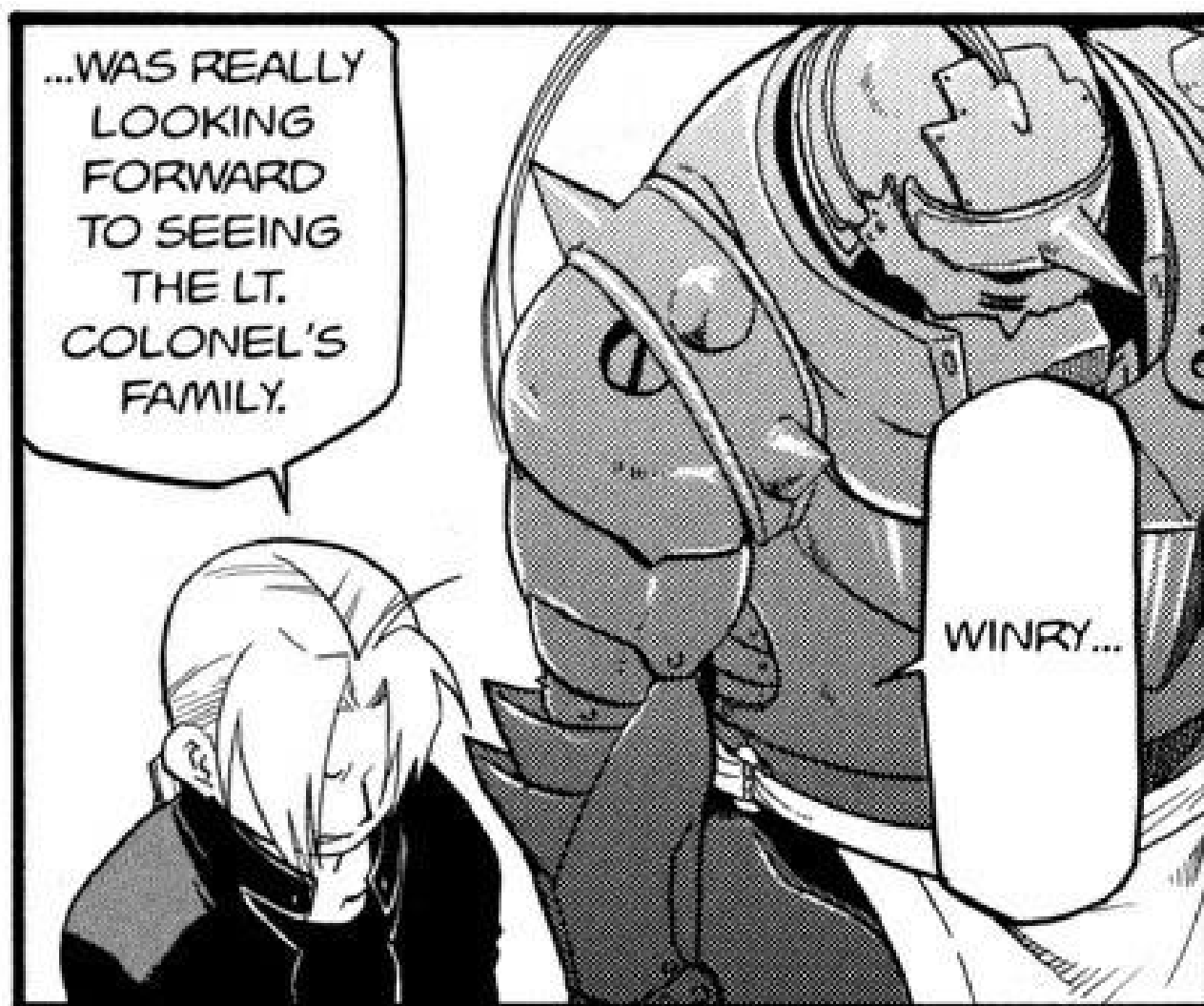
IT'S
ALL
MY
FAULT.

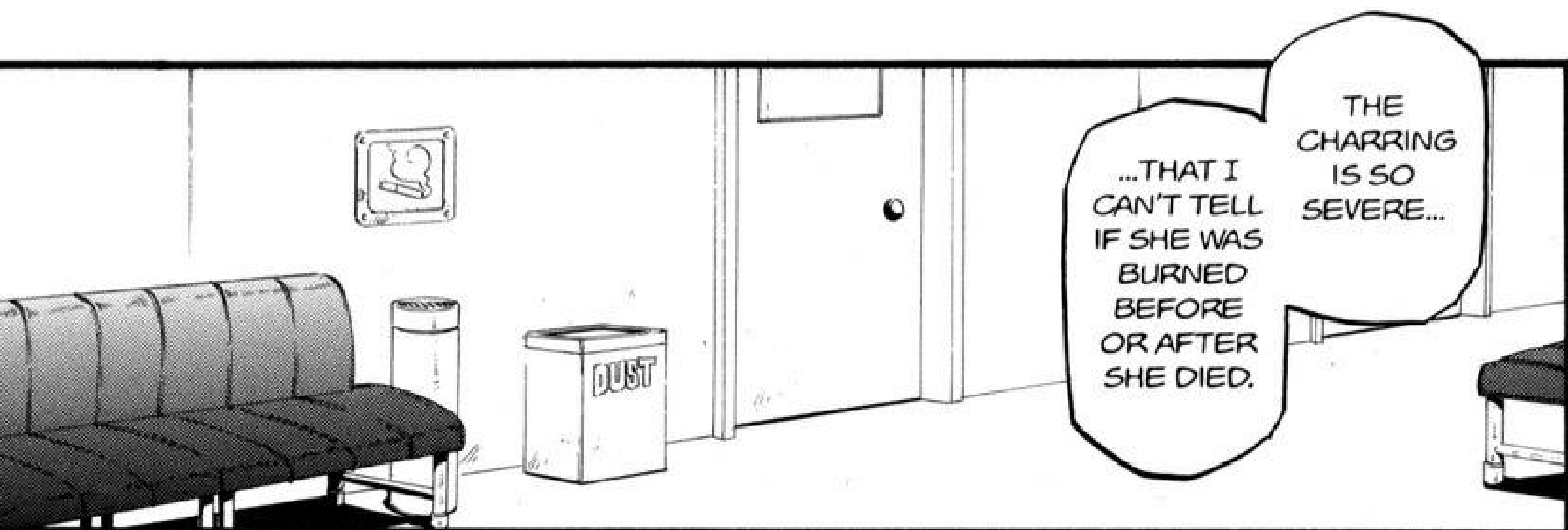


I AM TRULY
SORRY
FOR NOT
INFORMING
YOU ABOUT
LT. COLONEL
HUGHES'S
DEATH.



I
GOT
HIM
INVOLVED.





...THAT I
CAN'T TELL
IF SHE WAS
BURNED
BEFORE
OR AFTER
SHE DIED.

THE
CHARRING
IS SO
SEVERE...



I WAS ABLE
TO CONFIRM
HER IDENTITY
THROUGH
HER DENTAL
RECORDS.



NO.

THEN
THERE'S
A CHANCE
THAT IT
MIGHT NOT
BE HER..
?

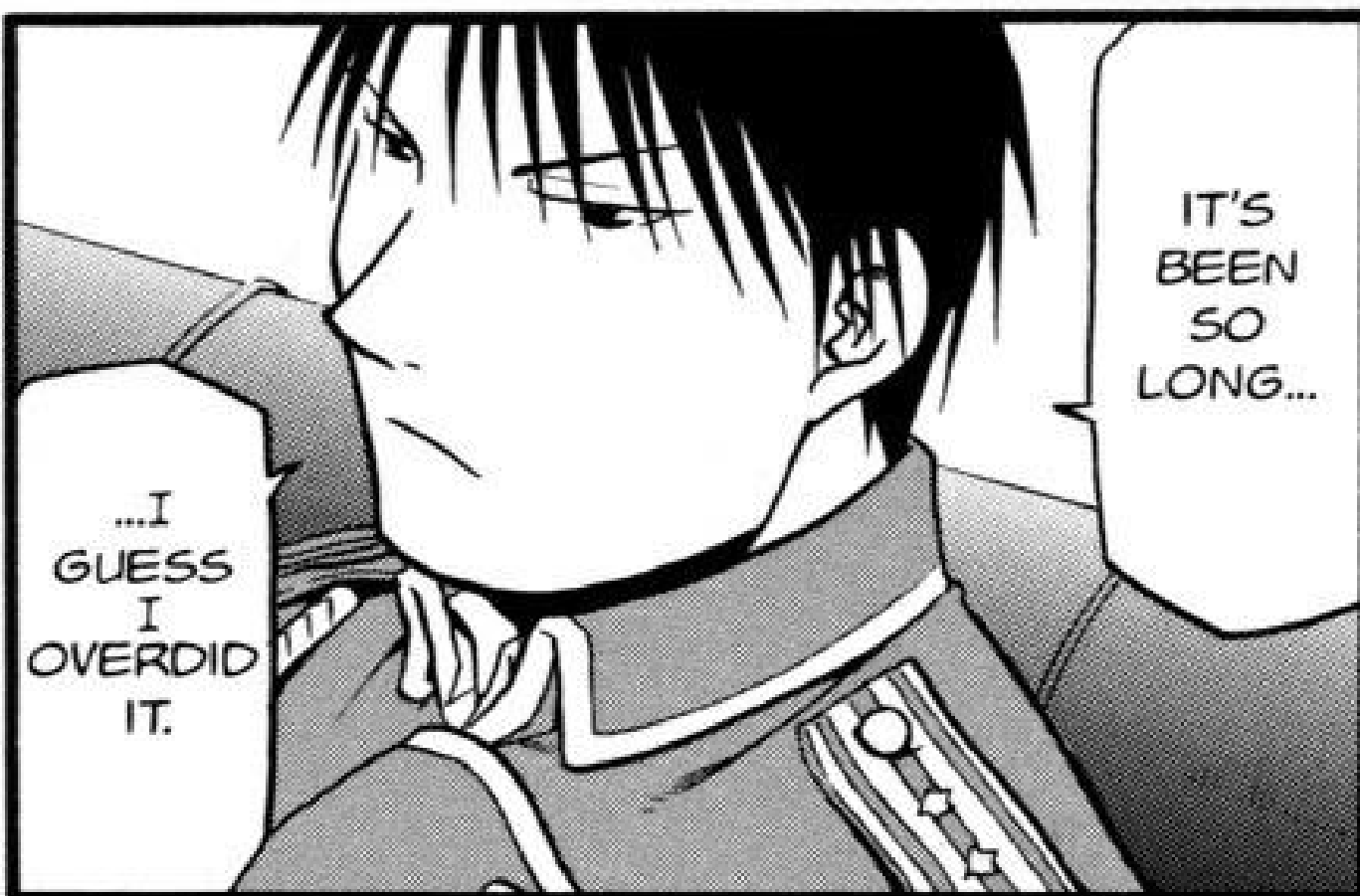


RIGHT
?



HE
MUST'VE
REALLY
HAD
SOMETHING
AGAINST
HER.

IT'S BARBARIC,
IF YOU ASK ME.
HE BURNED
THIS BEAUTIFUL
GIRL UNTIL
SHE WAS JUST
A PILE
OF ASH.





THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR YOU
TO APOLO-
GIZE,
MAJOR.



I
APOLOGIZE
FOR THE
ACTIONS
OF MY SUB-
ORDINATE.



...CAR-
ING...



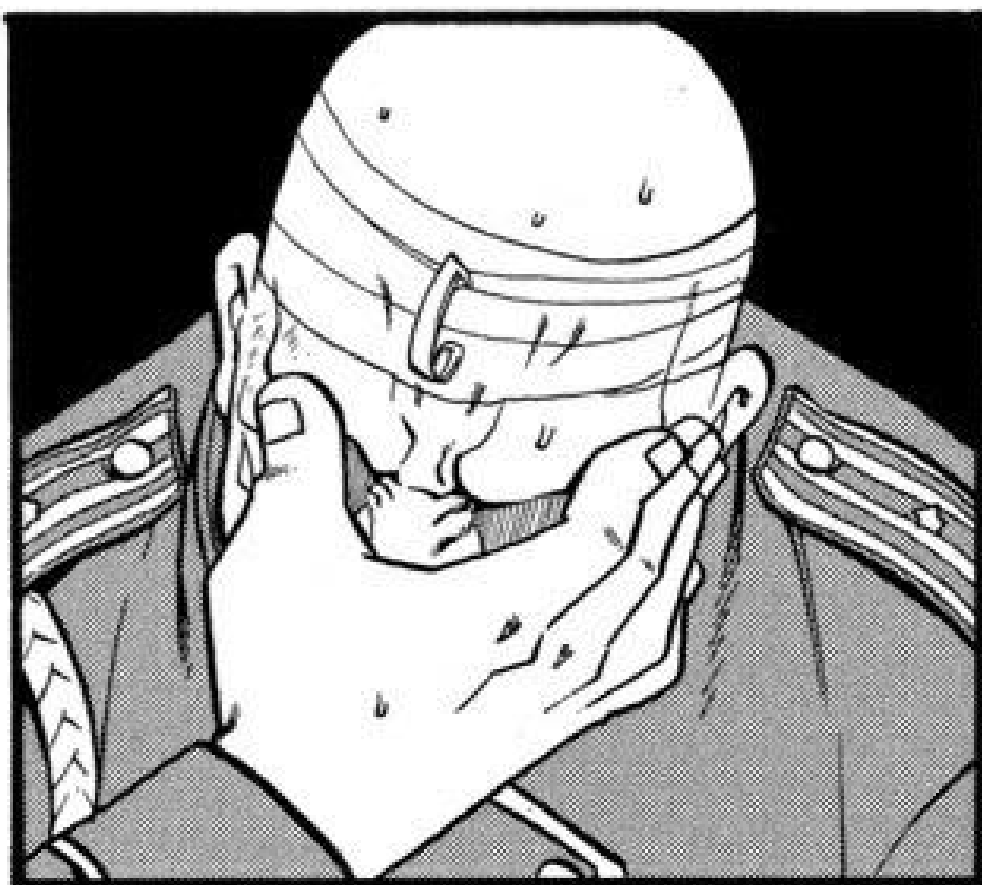
I NEVER
THOUGHT
THAT 2ND LT.
ROSS COULD
LET US DOWN,
LET ALONE
MURDER A
FELLOW
OFFICER.

SHE
WAS AN
HONEST,
DECENT...



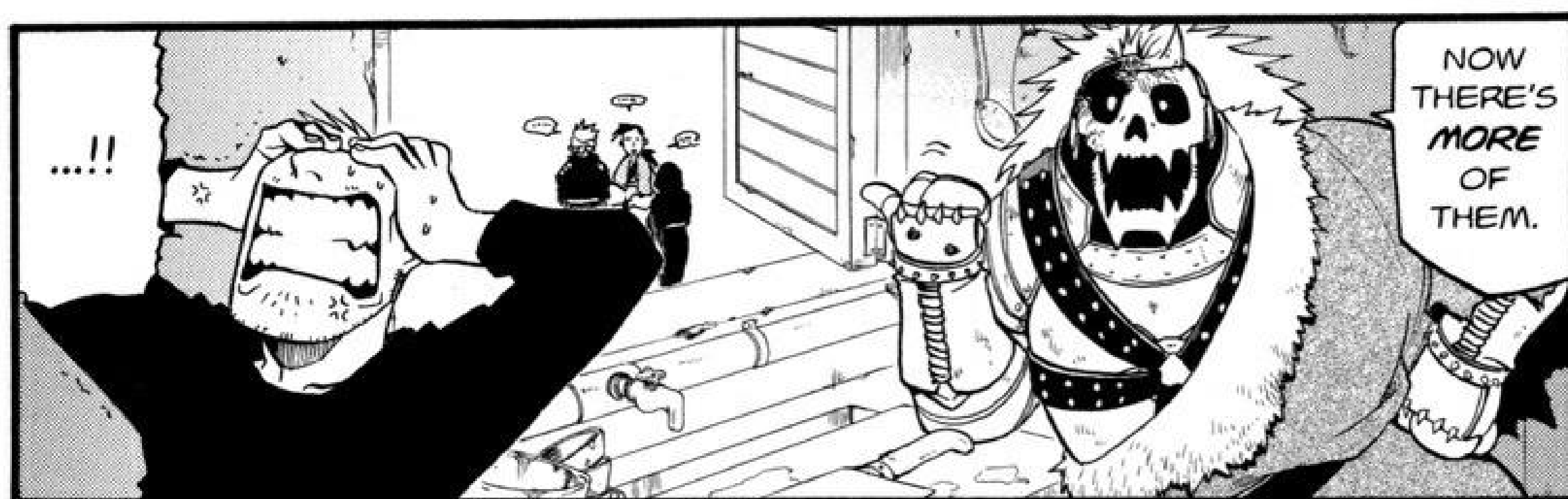
...CARING...

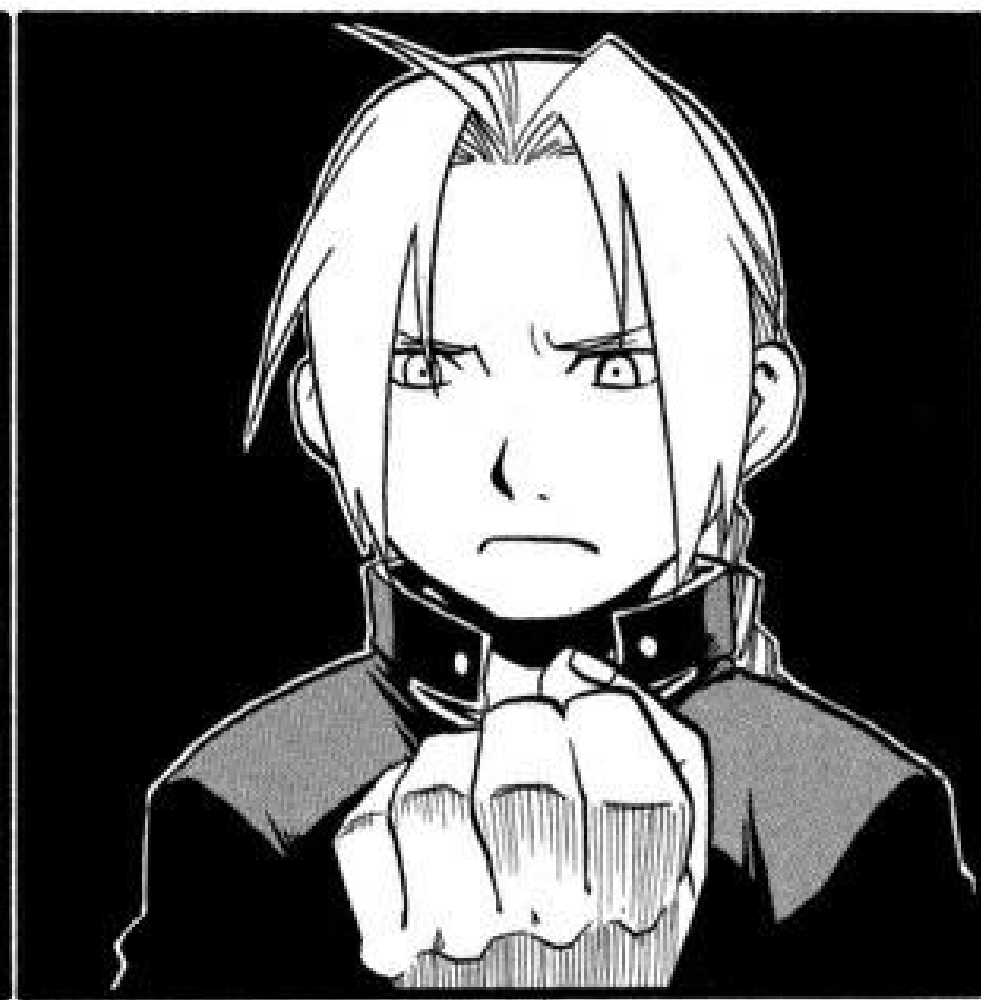


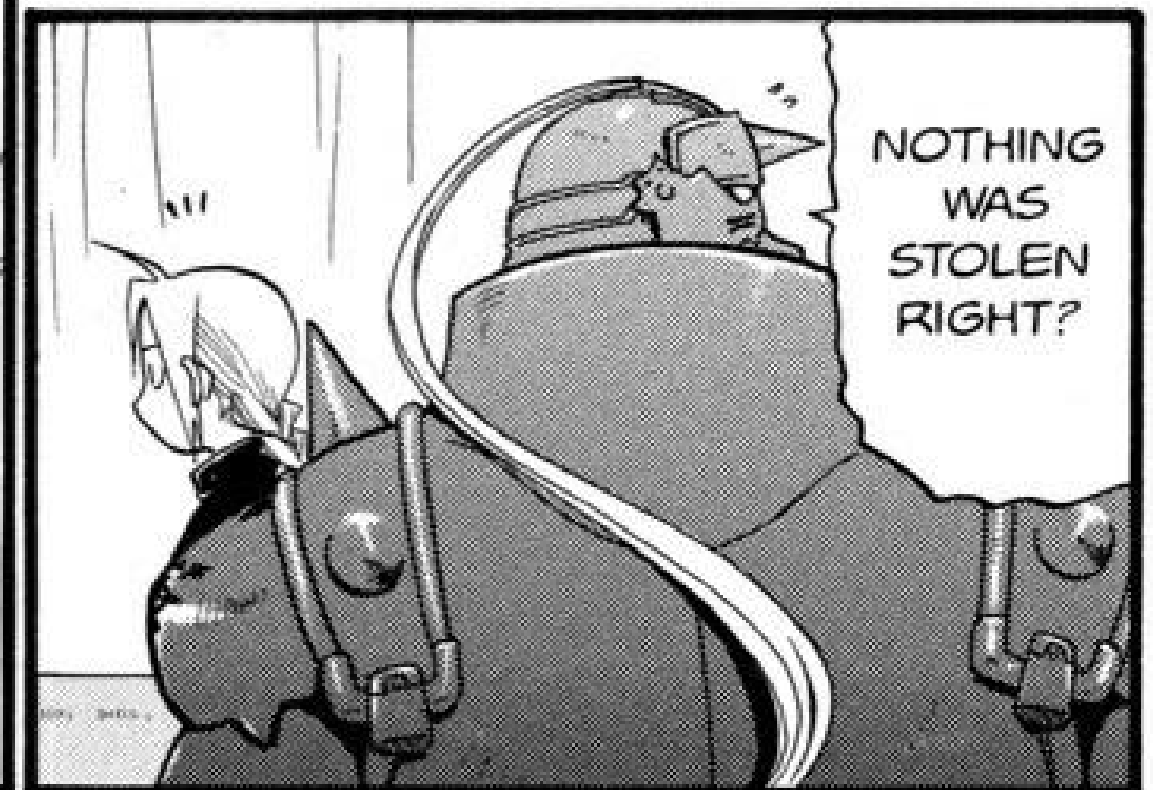


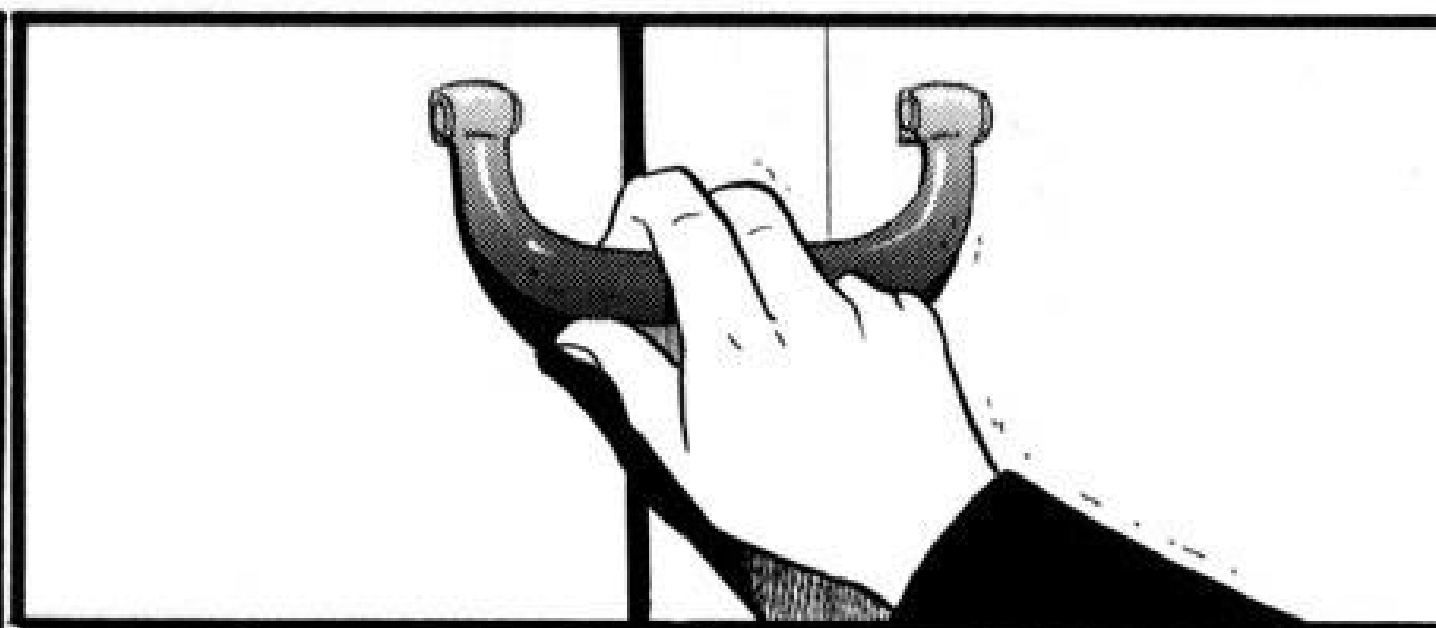
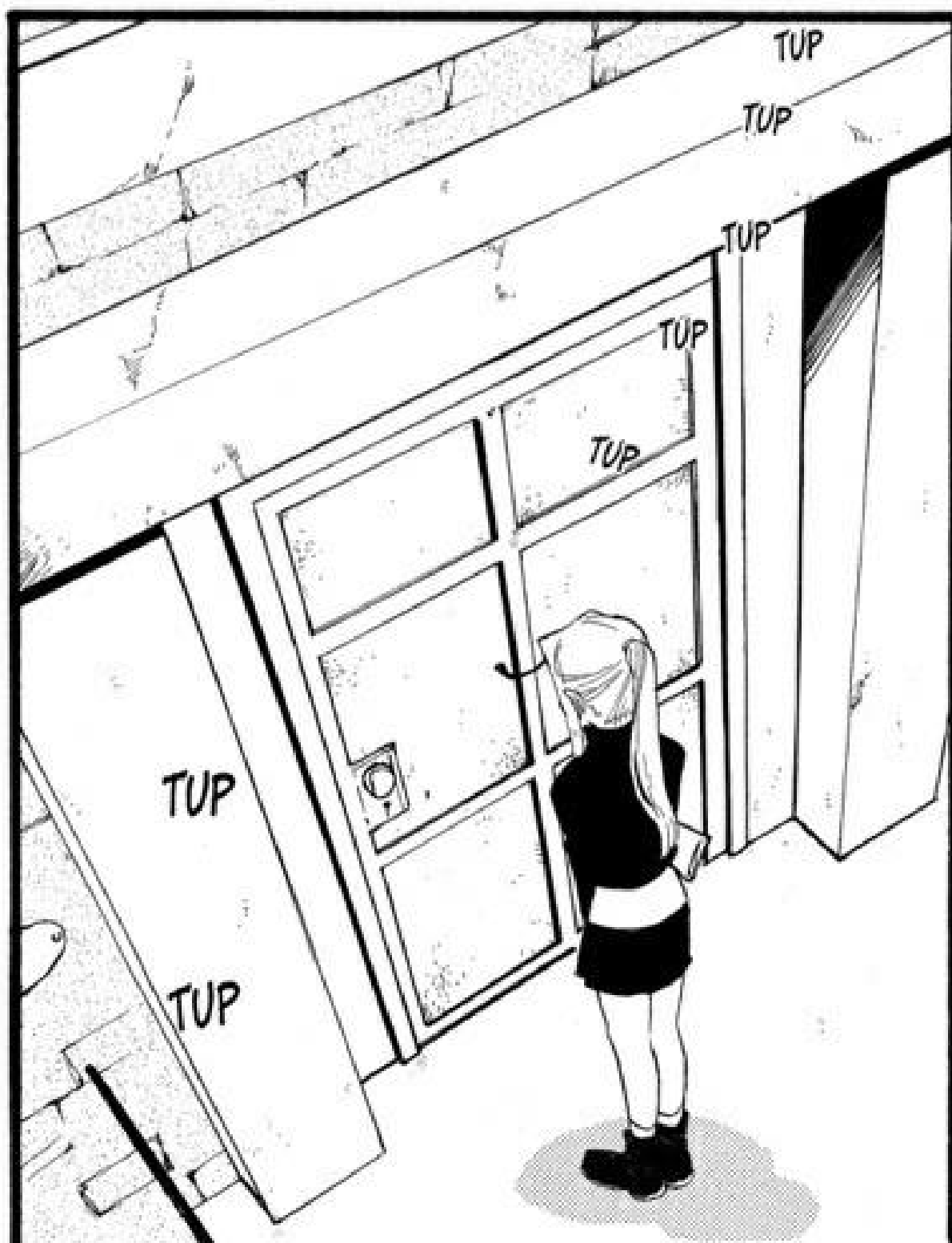
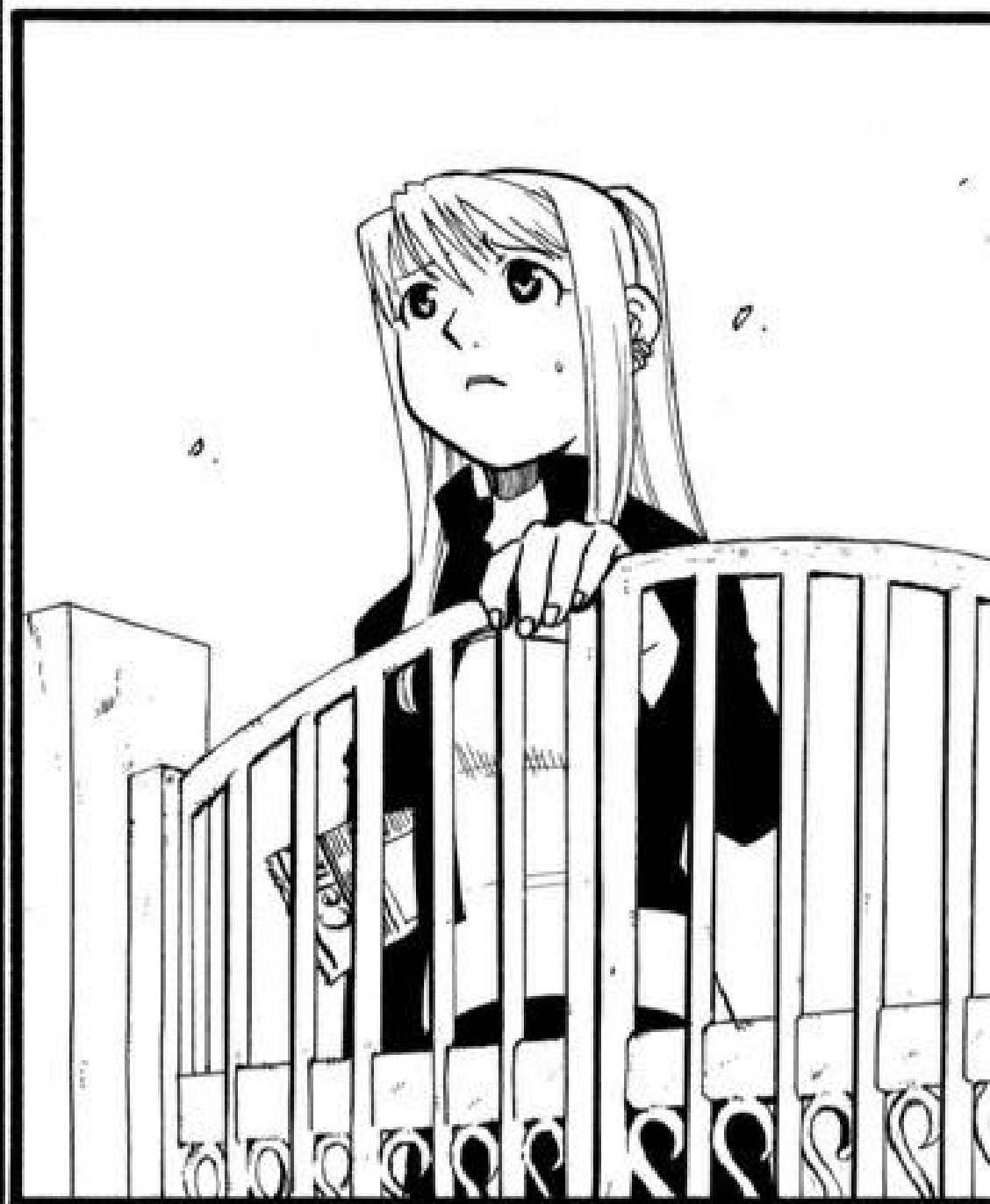


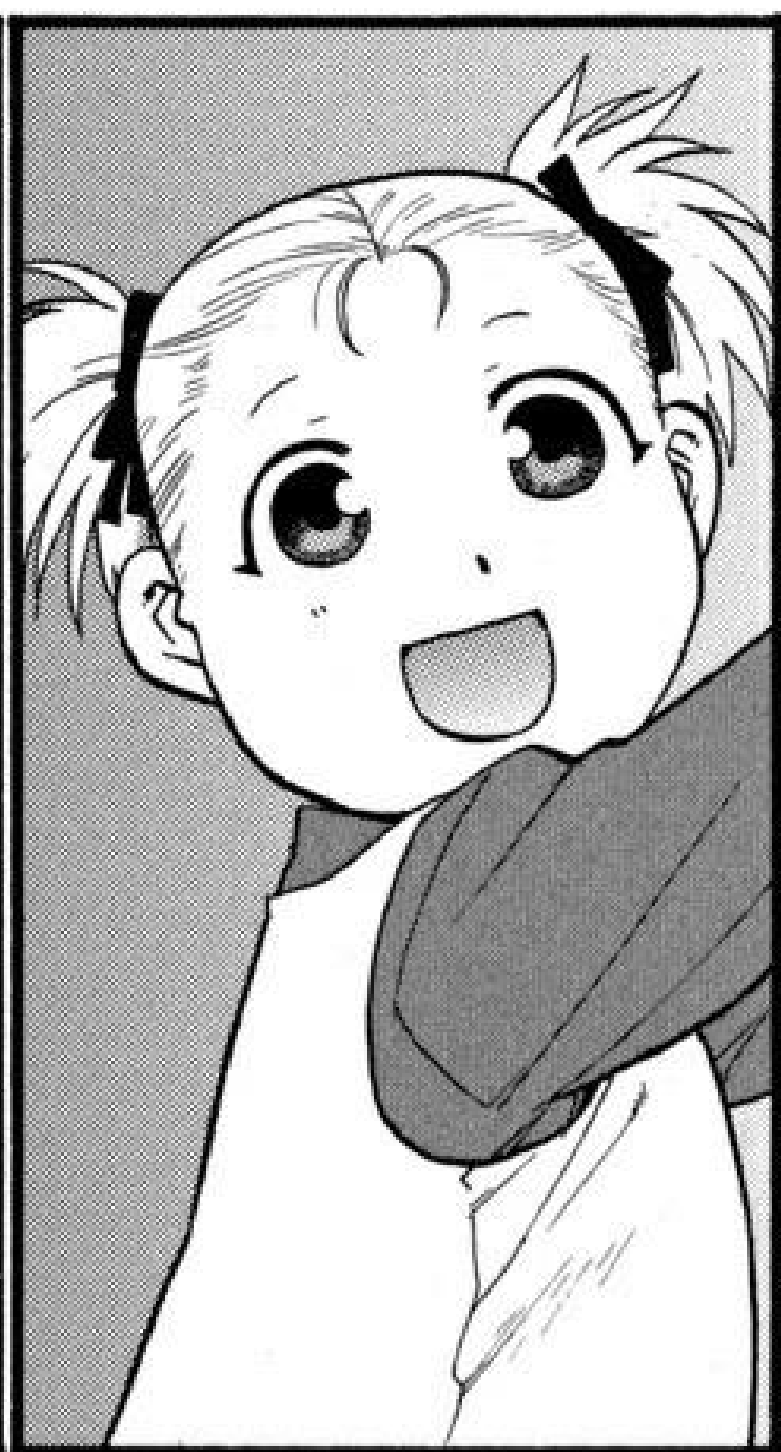
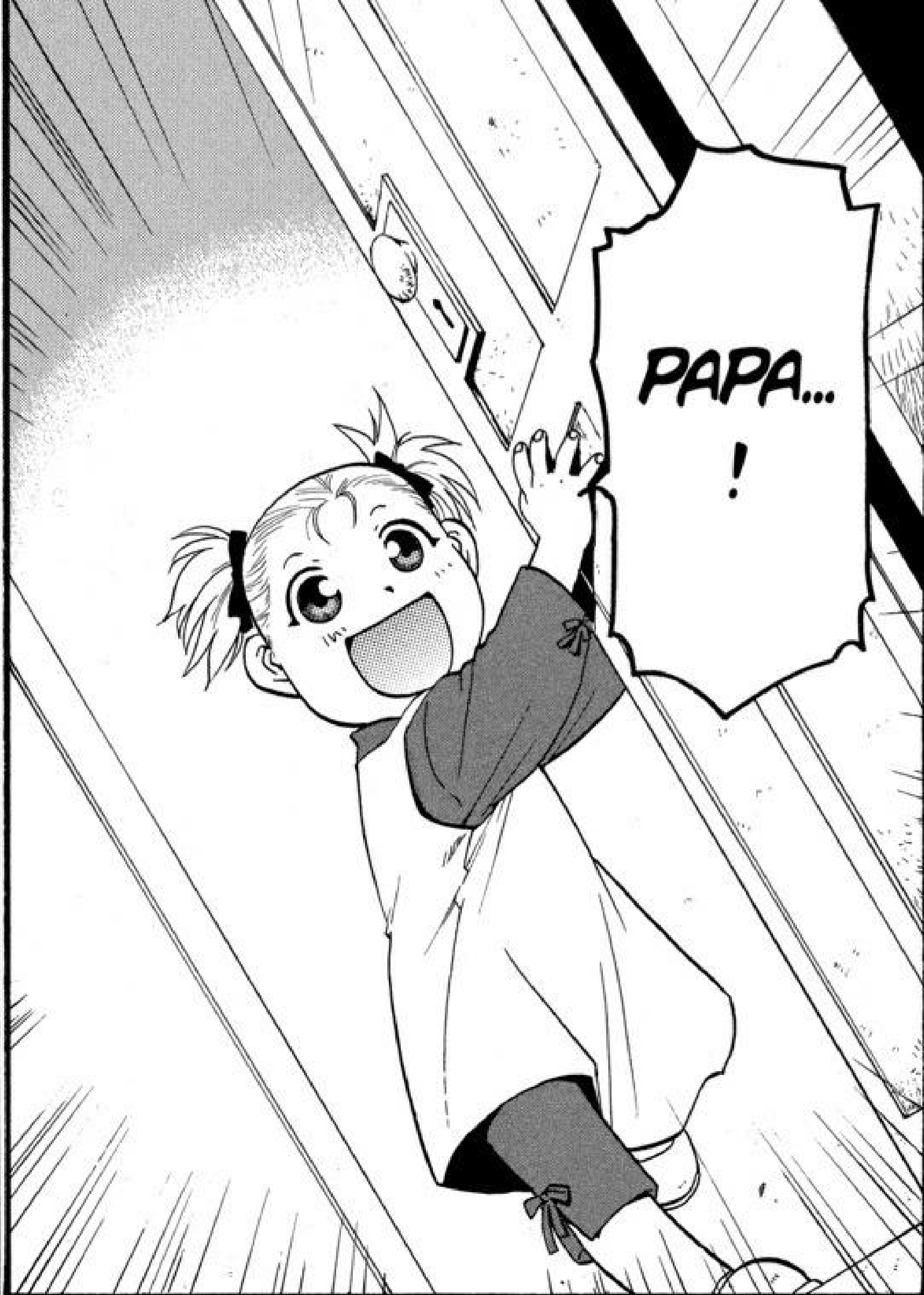


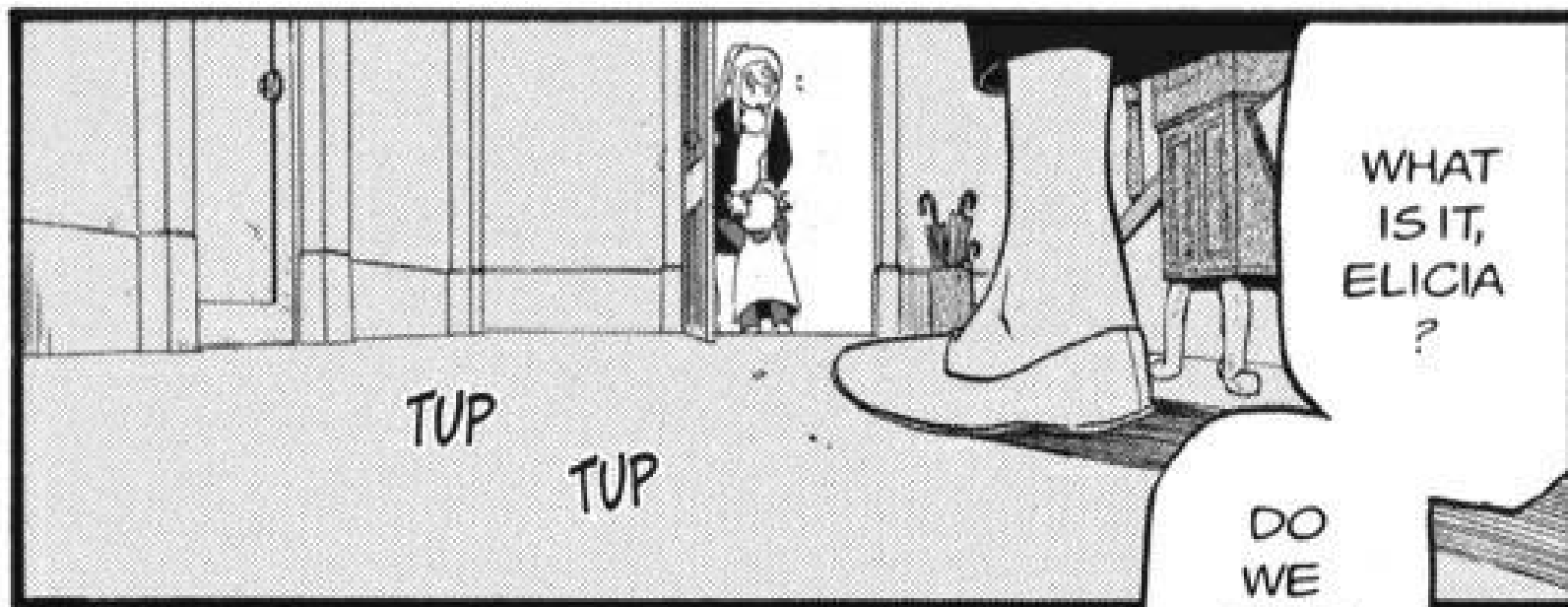


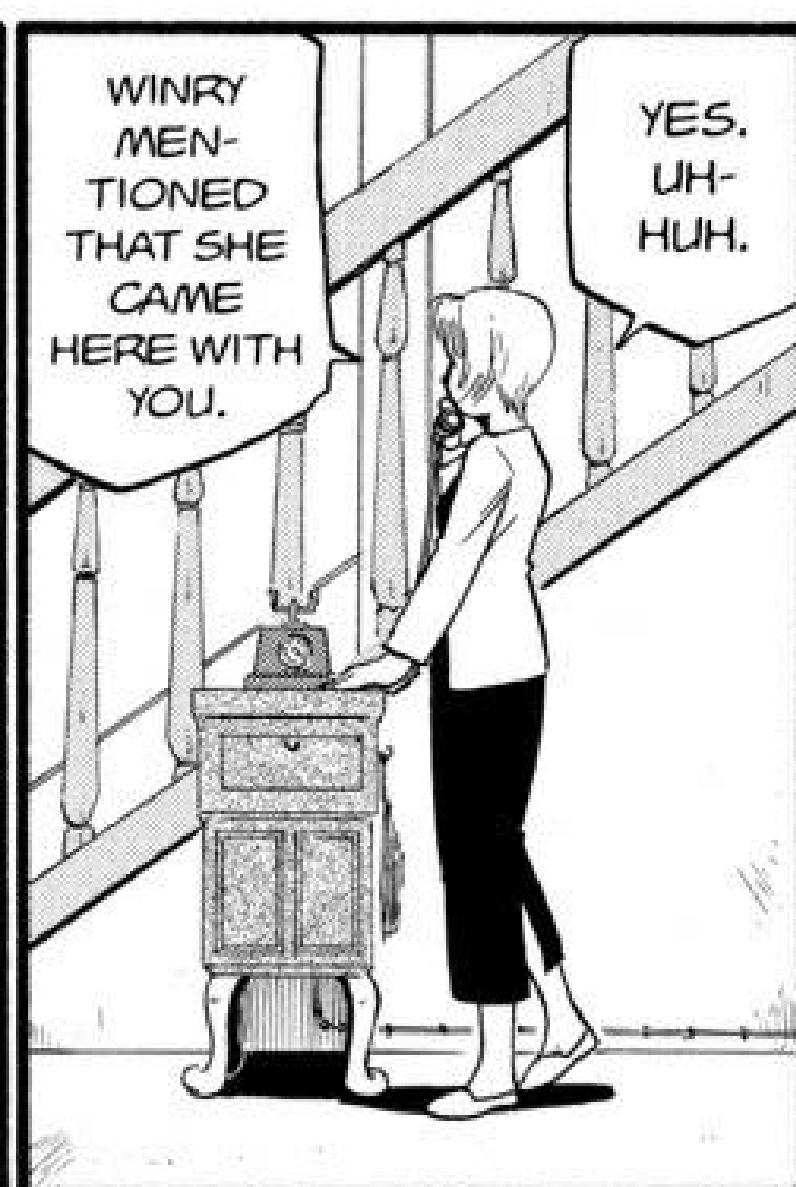
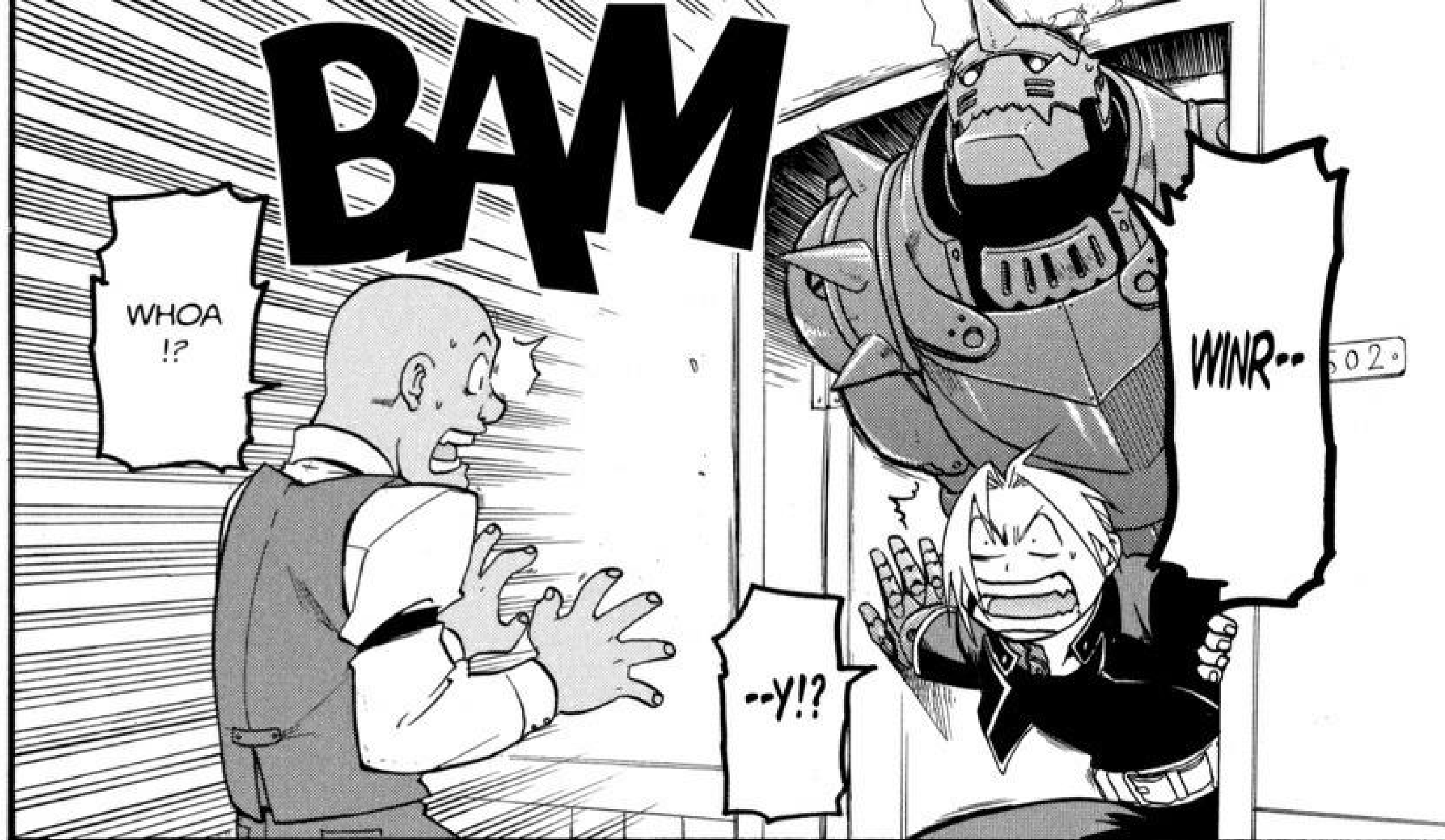














WE'RE
ON
MAY-
FLOWER
STREET
AND...



REMEMBER
GRACIA? SHE
SAW US OFF
AT THE TRAIN
STATION LAST
TIME WE LEFT
CENTRAL.

AT THE
HUGHES'S
HOUSE.

SO,
WHERE
IS
SHE?

I'LL BE
RIGHT
THERE.

YES.
I SEE.
THANK
YOUR FOR
TAKING
CARE OF
HER.



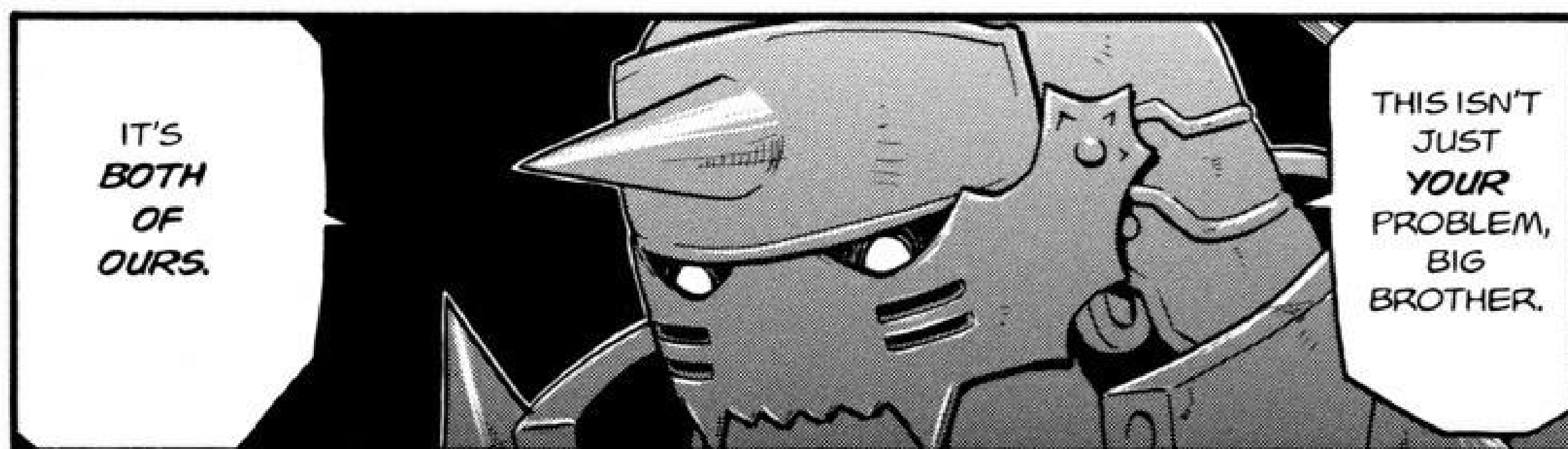
NO WAY.
ONE
PERSON
GETTING
CHEWED
OUT IS
ENOUGH.

I'M
COMING
WITH
YOU.

AND I'M
GOING TO
SPEAK TO
HER
HONESTLY
ABOUT
EVERYTHING.

UH-
HUH.

ARE
YOU
GOING
?

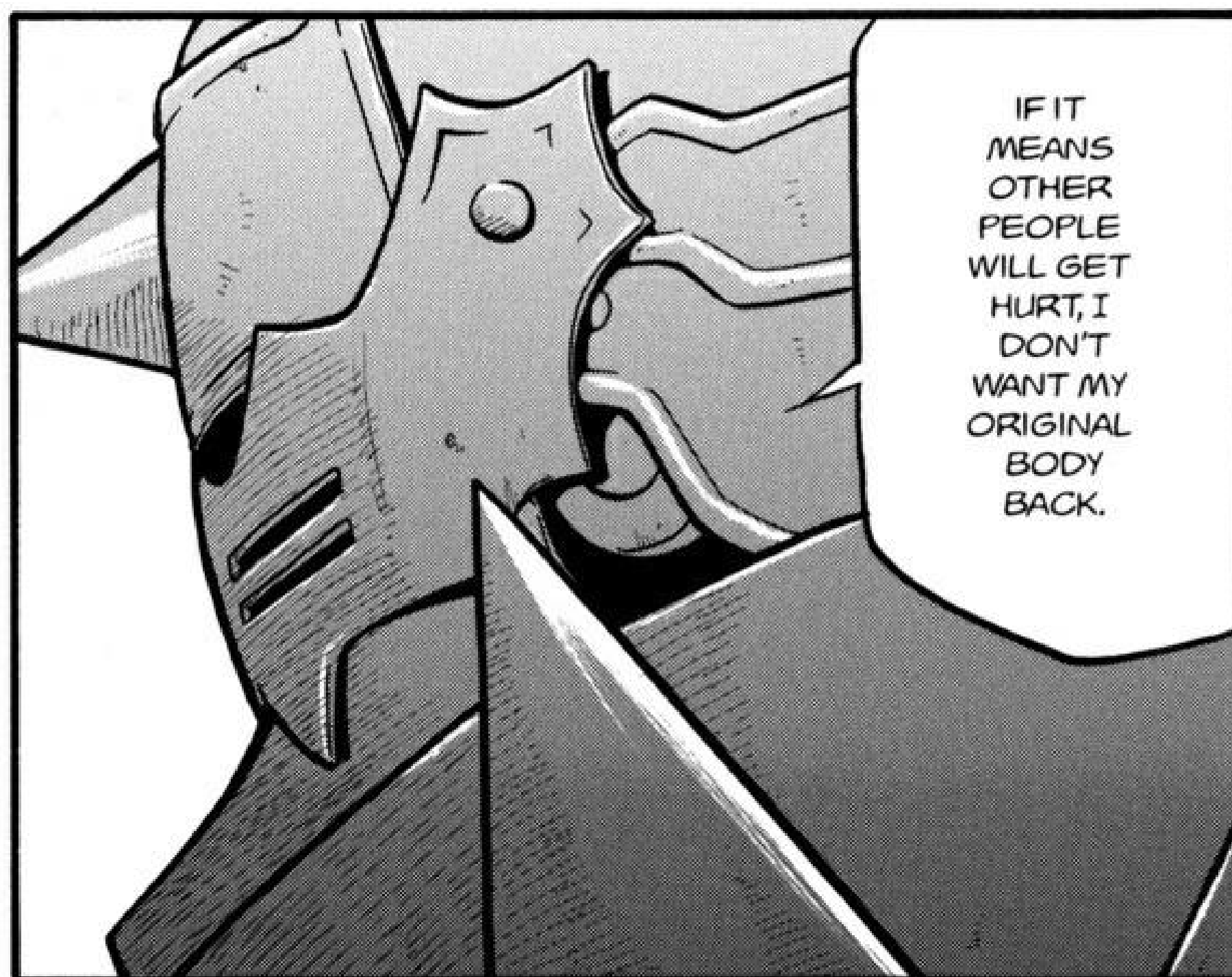


IT'S
BOTH
OF
OURS.

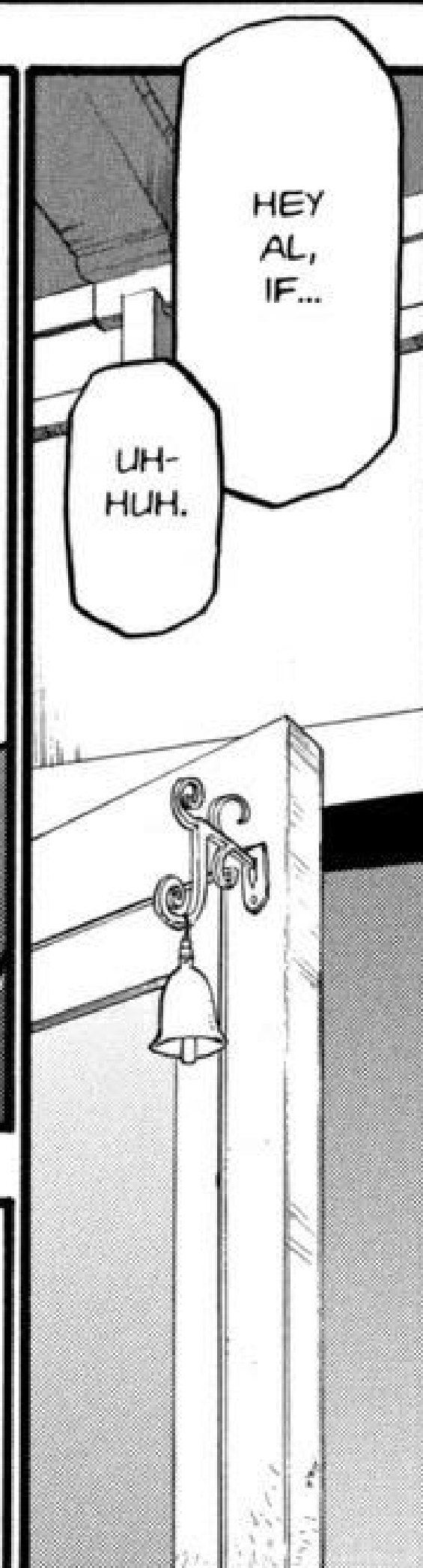
THIS ISN'T
JUST
YOUR
PROBLEM,
BIG
BROTHER.



I
HAVE
TO GO
TOO.

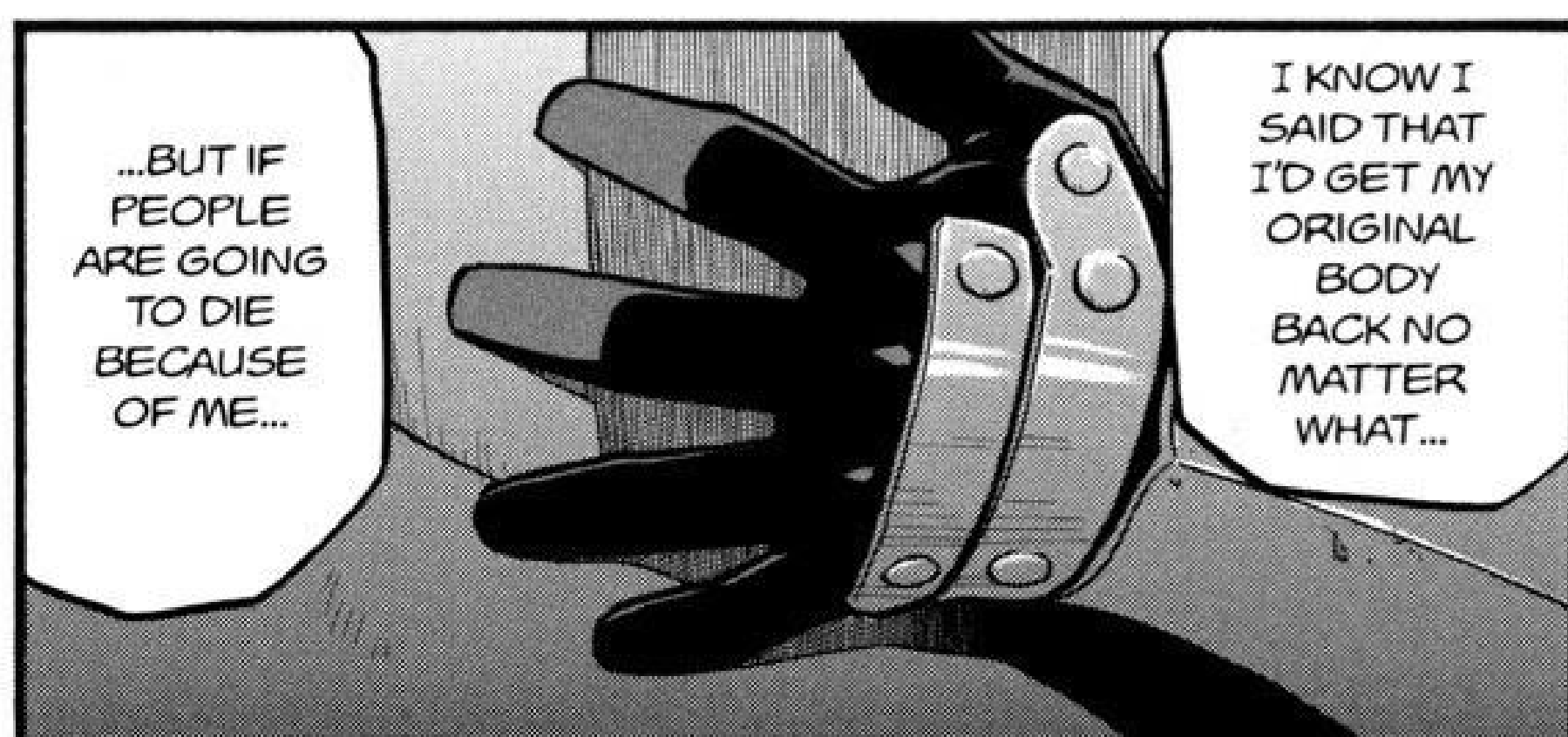


IF IT
MEANS
OTHER
PEOPLE
WILL GET
HURT, I
DON'T
WANT MY
ORIGINAL
BODY
BACK.



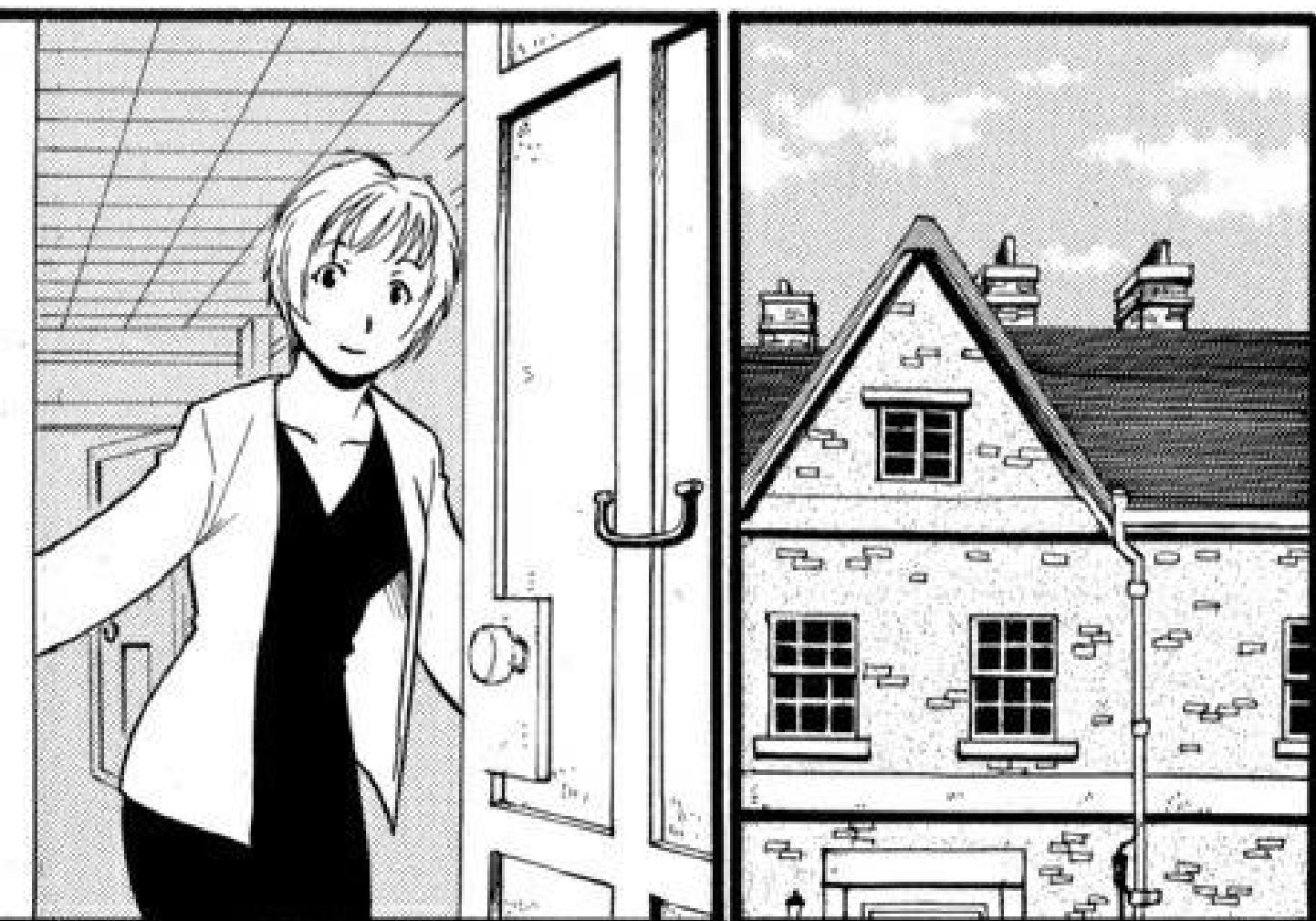
HEY
AL,
IF...

UH-
HUH.

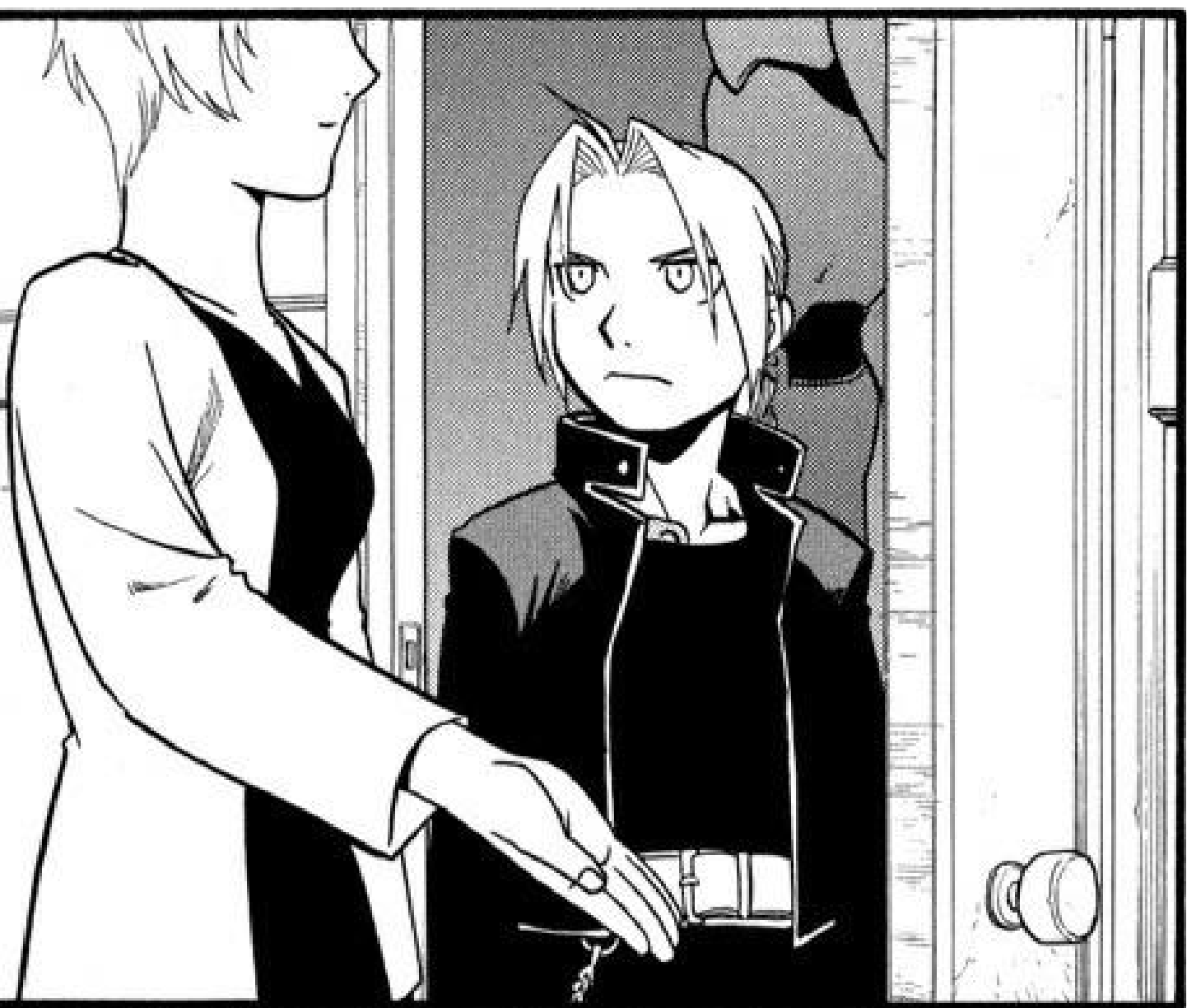
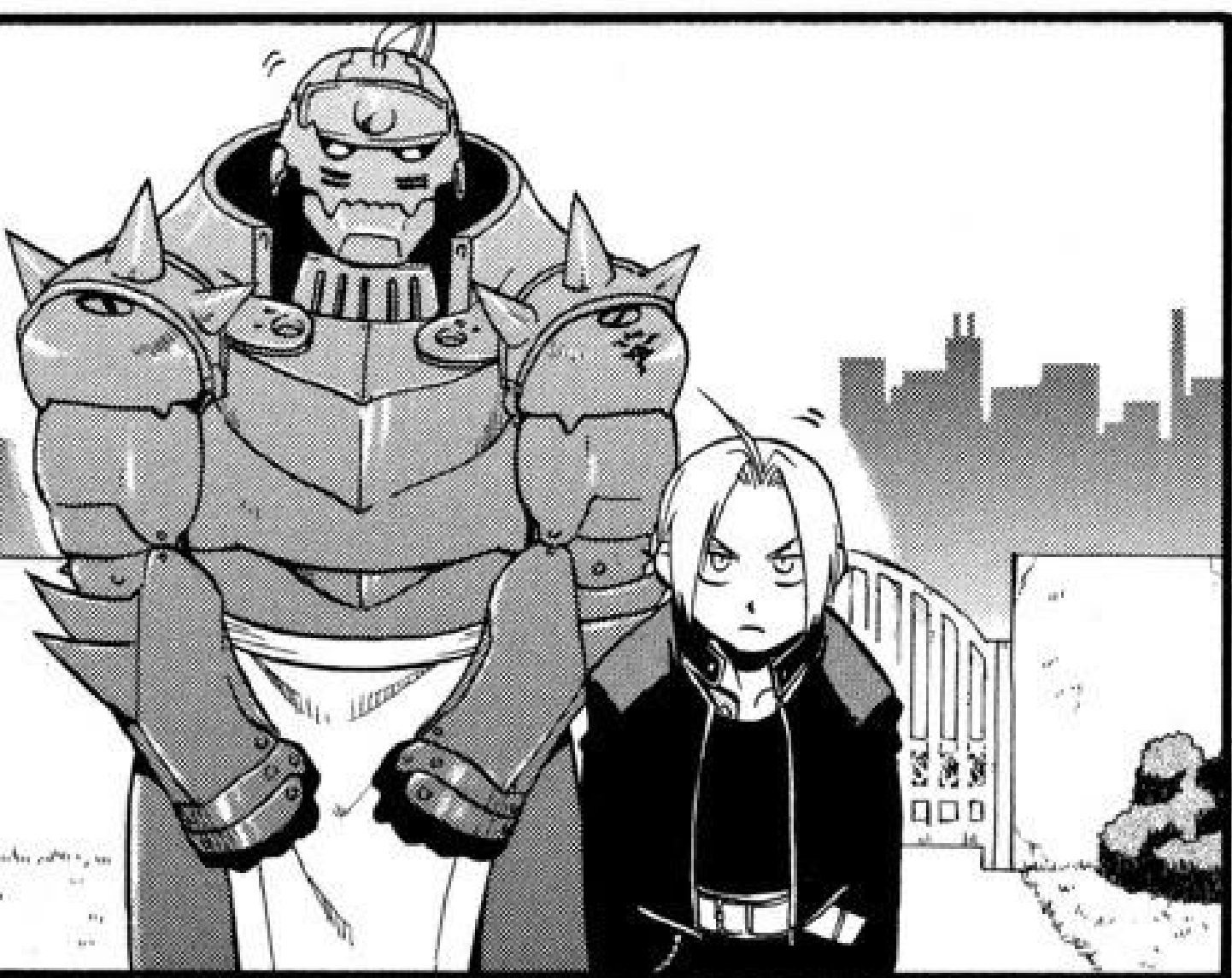


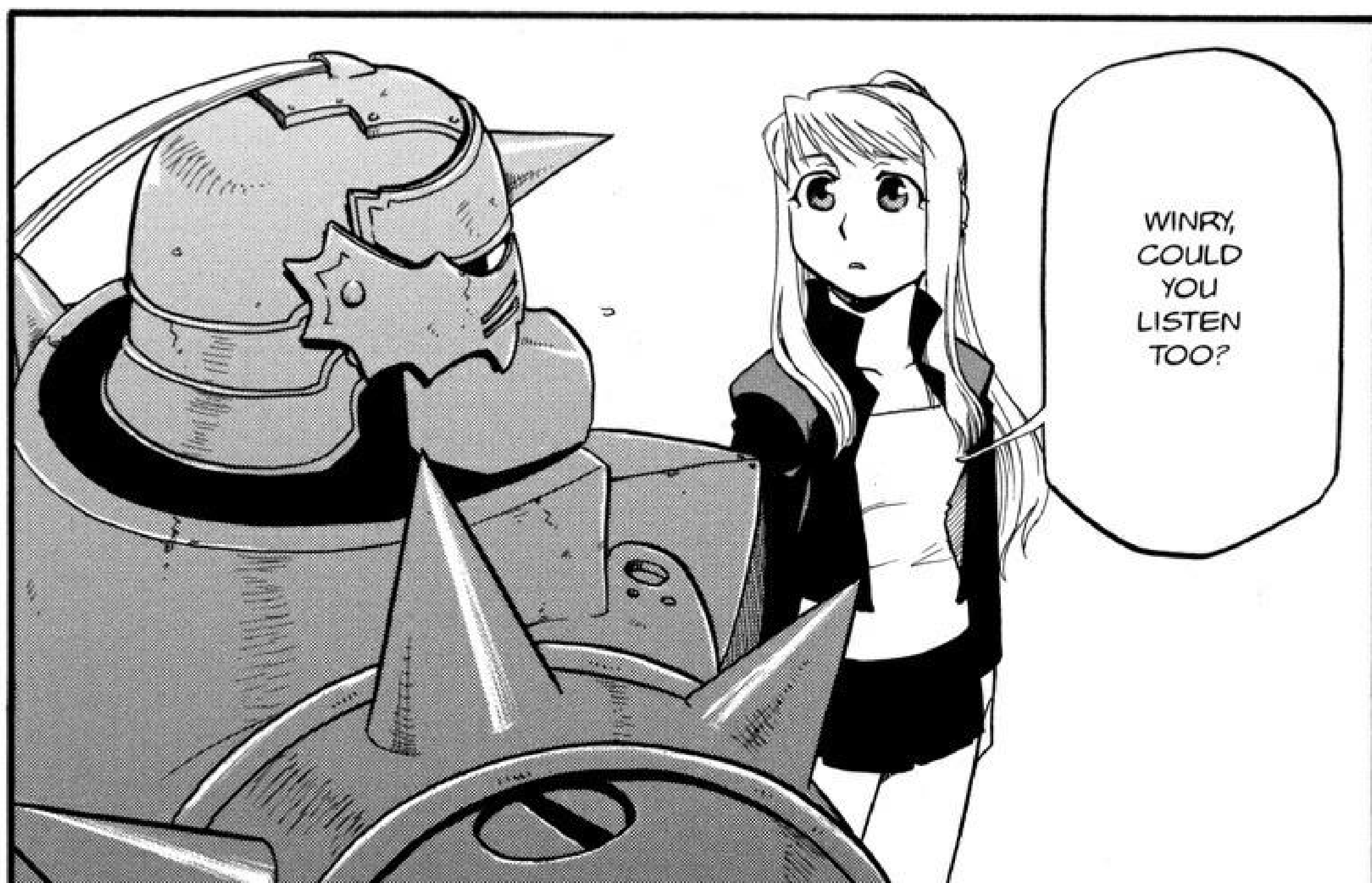
...BUT IF
PEOPLE
ARE GOING
TO DIE
BECAUSE
OF ME...

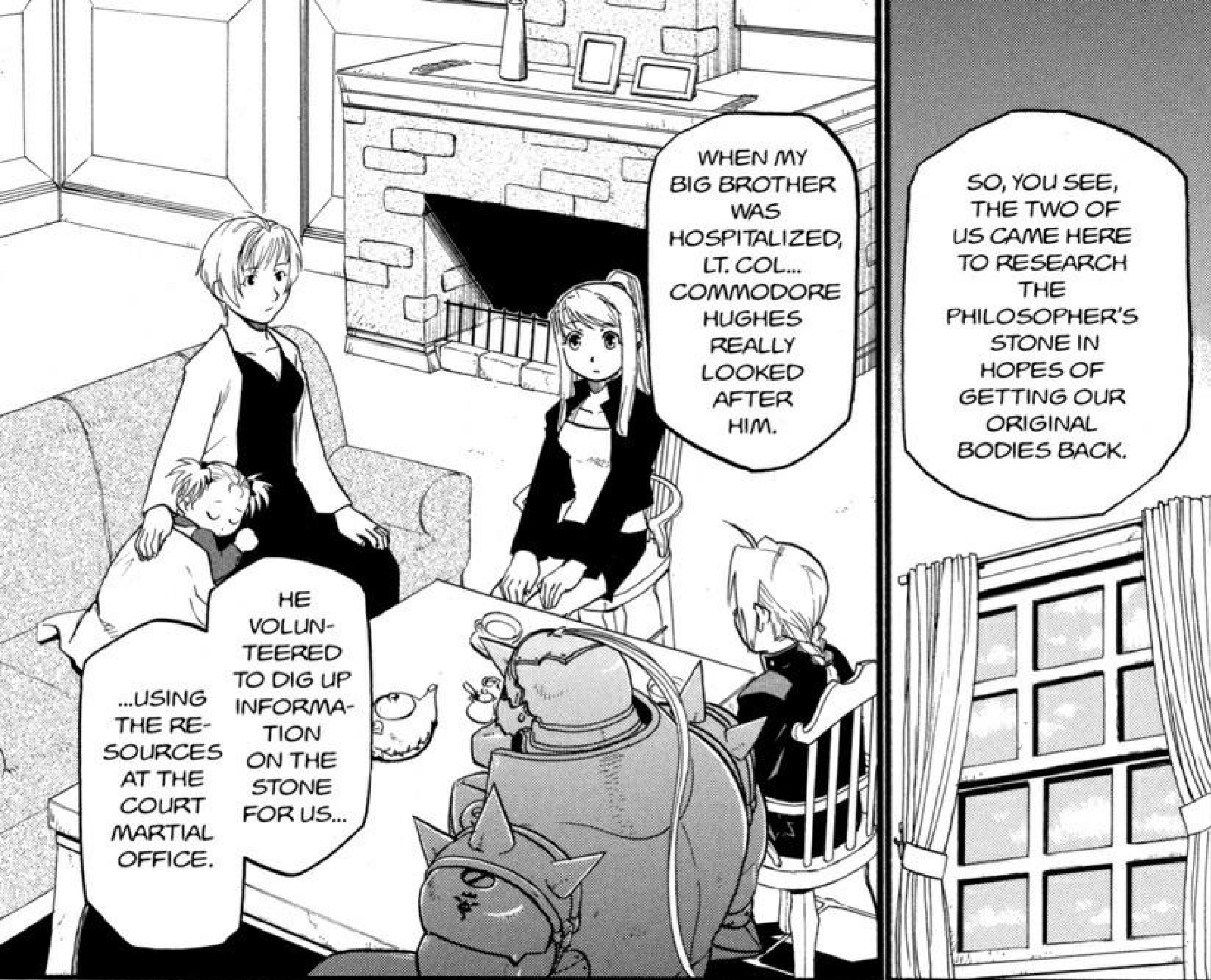
I KNOW I
SAID THAT
I'D GET MY
ORIGINAL
BODY
BACK NO
MATTER
WHAT...



...I'D
RATHER
STAY
IN THIS
BODY
FOREVER.







WHEN MY BIG BROTHER WAS HOSPITALIZED, LT. COL... COMMODORE HUGHES REALLY LOOKED AFTER HIM.

SO, YOU SEE, THE TWO OF US CAME HERE TO RESEARCH THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE IN HOPES OF GETTING OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK.

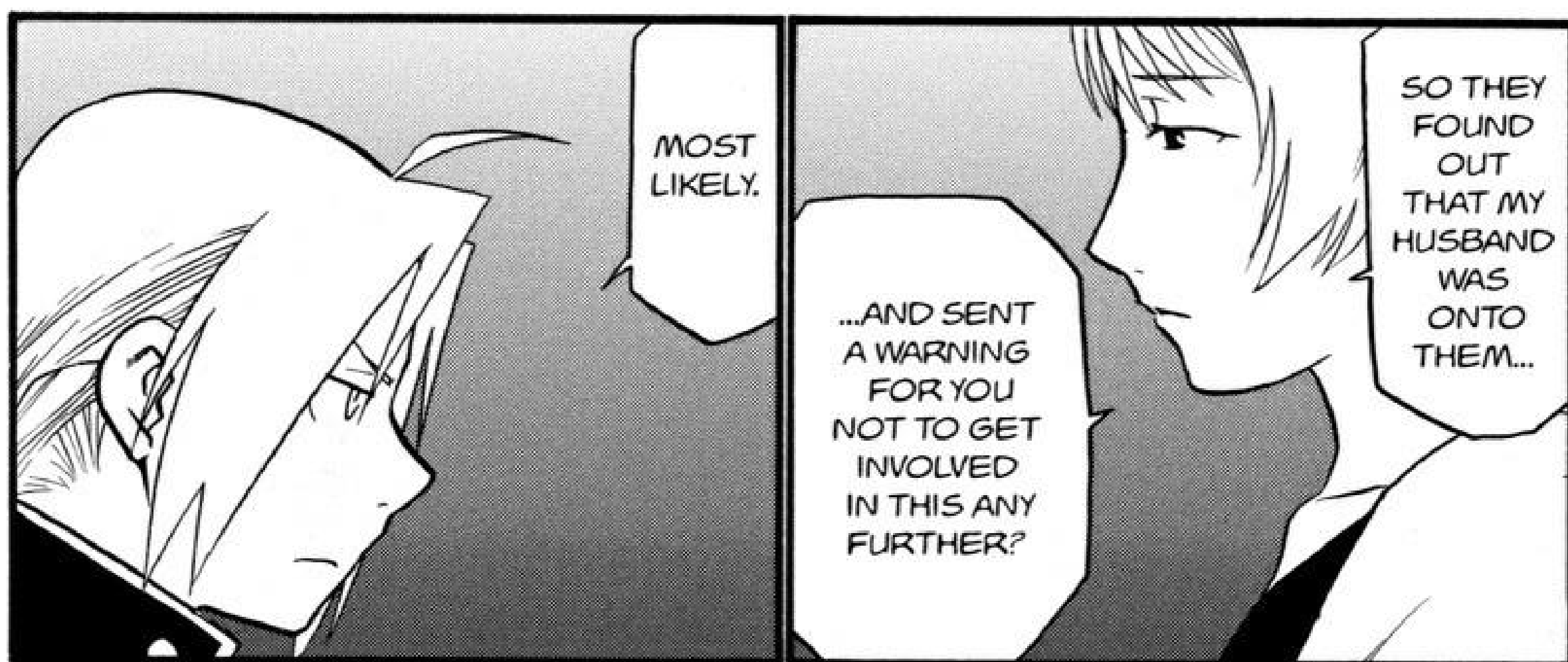
...USING THE RESOURCES AT THE COURT MARTIAL OFFICE.

HE VOLUNTEERED TO DIG UP INFORMATION ON THE STONE FOR US...

THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY CAME TO TELL US TO NOT PROBE INTO IT ANY FURTHER BECAUSE HE SAID IT WAS "TOO DANGEROUS."

...THAT HE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT.

APPARENTLY HE STUMBLED UPON SECRET INFORMATION THAT SHED LIGHT ON THE DARKER SIDE OF THE MILITARY...

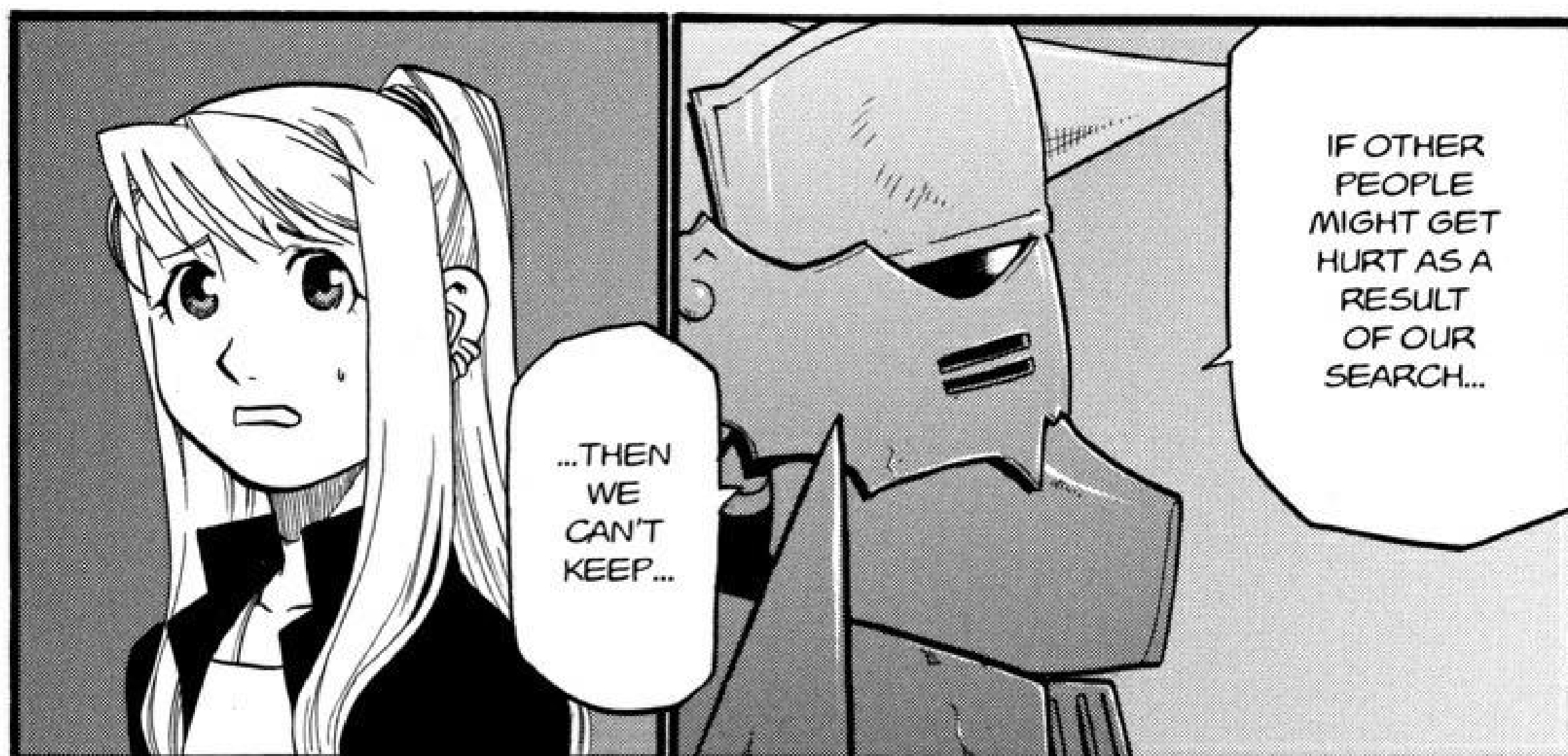


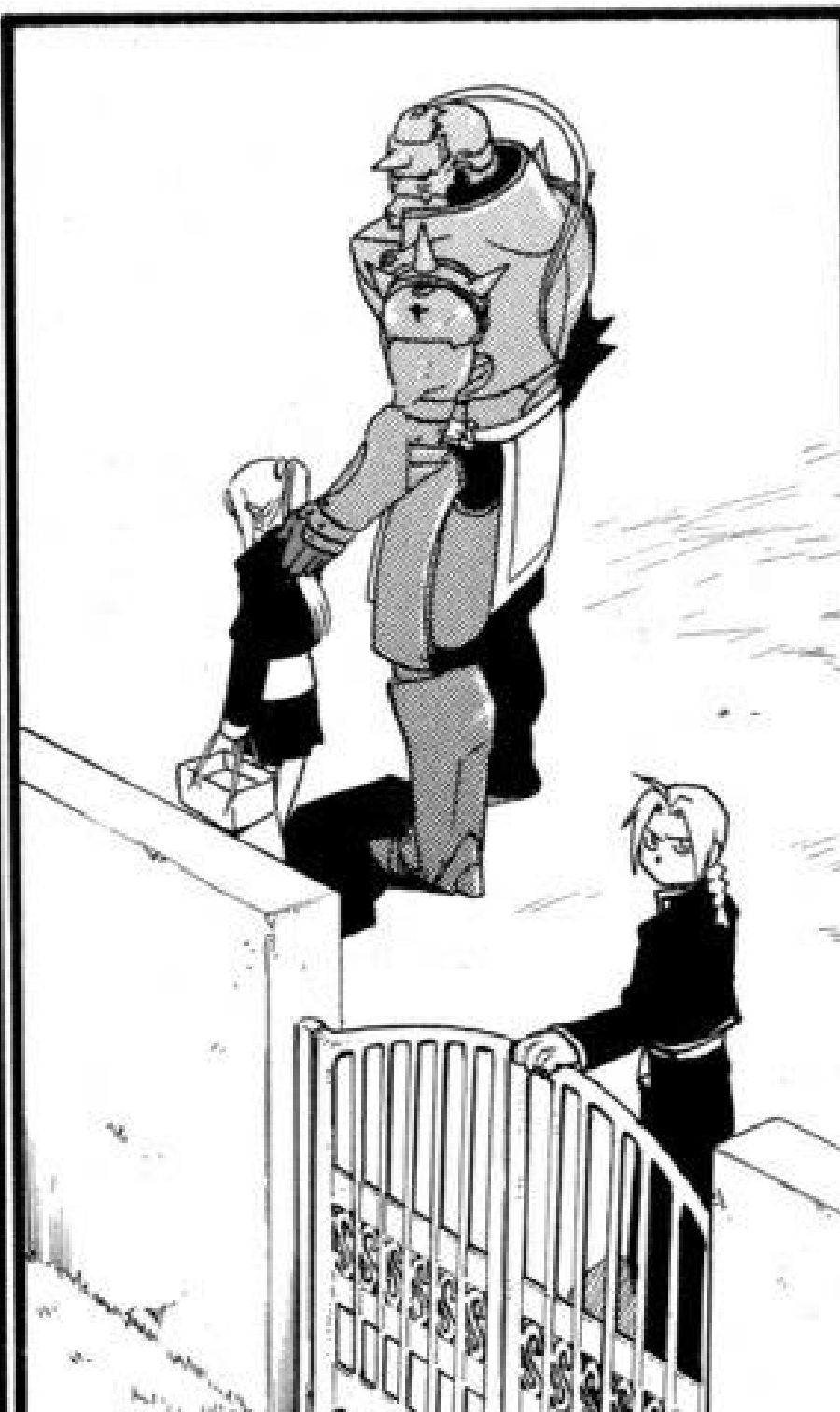
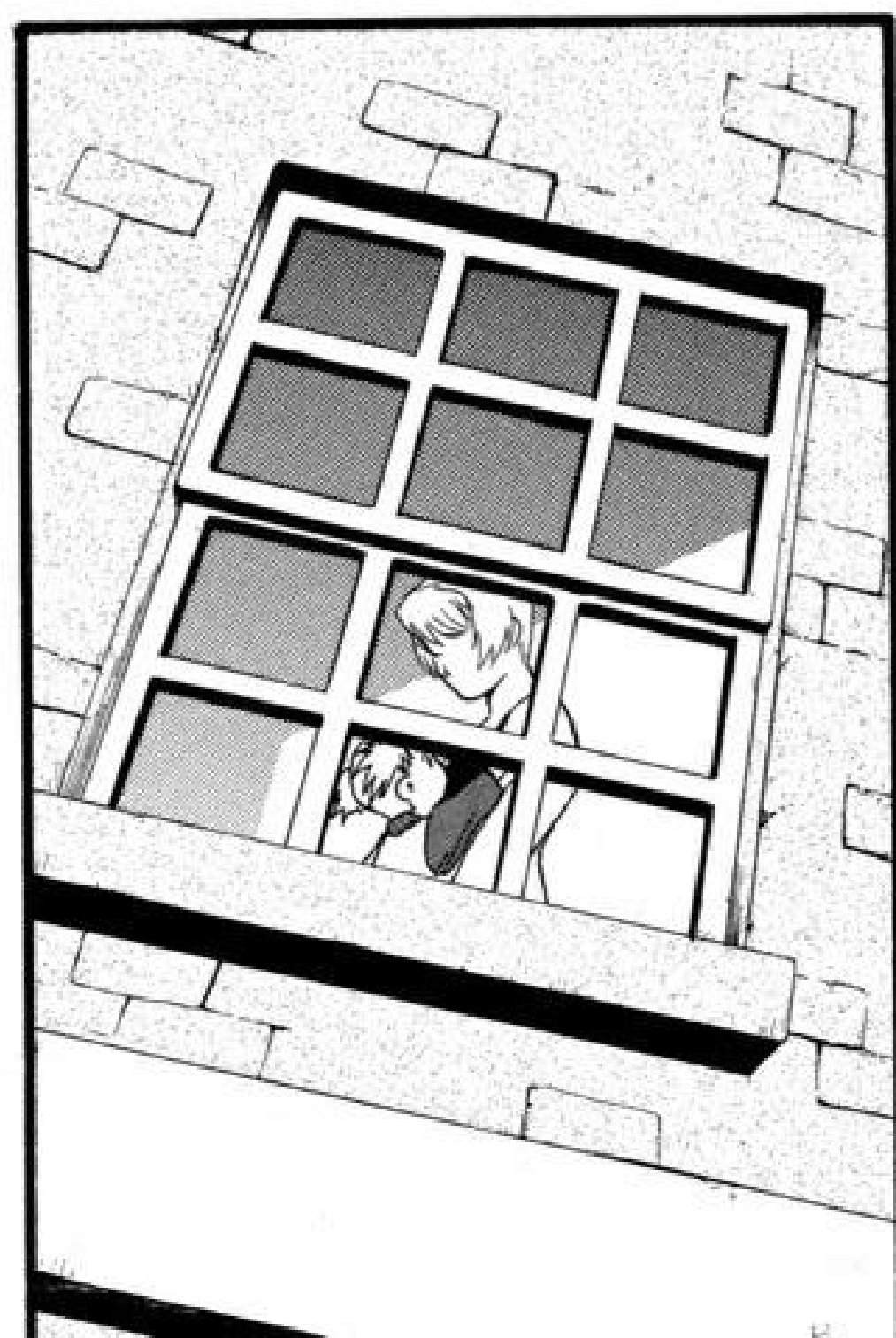
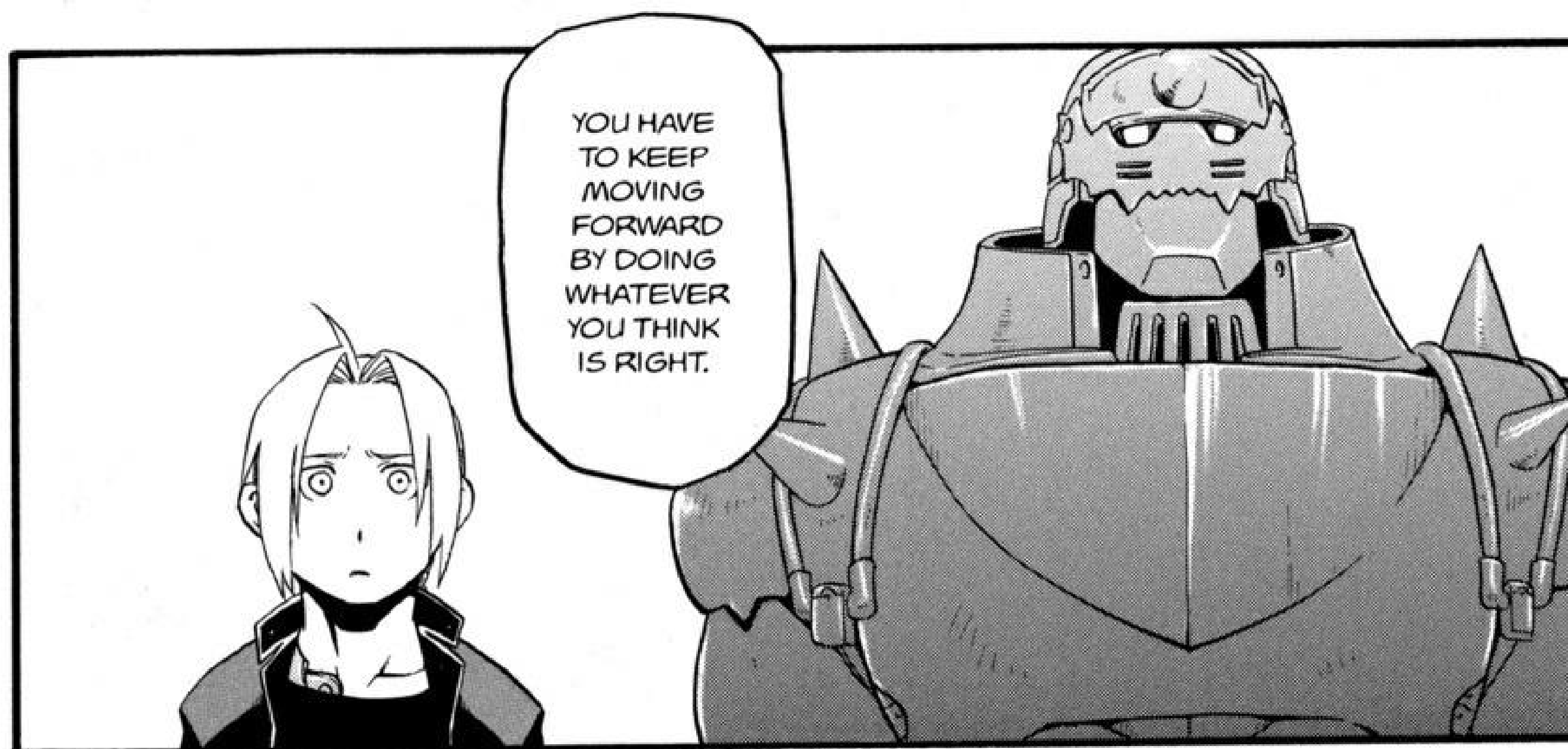
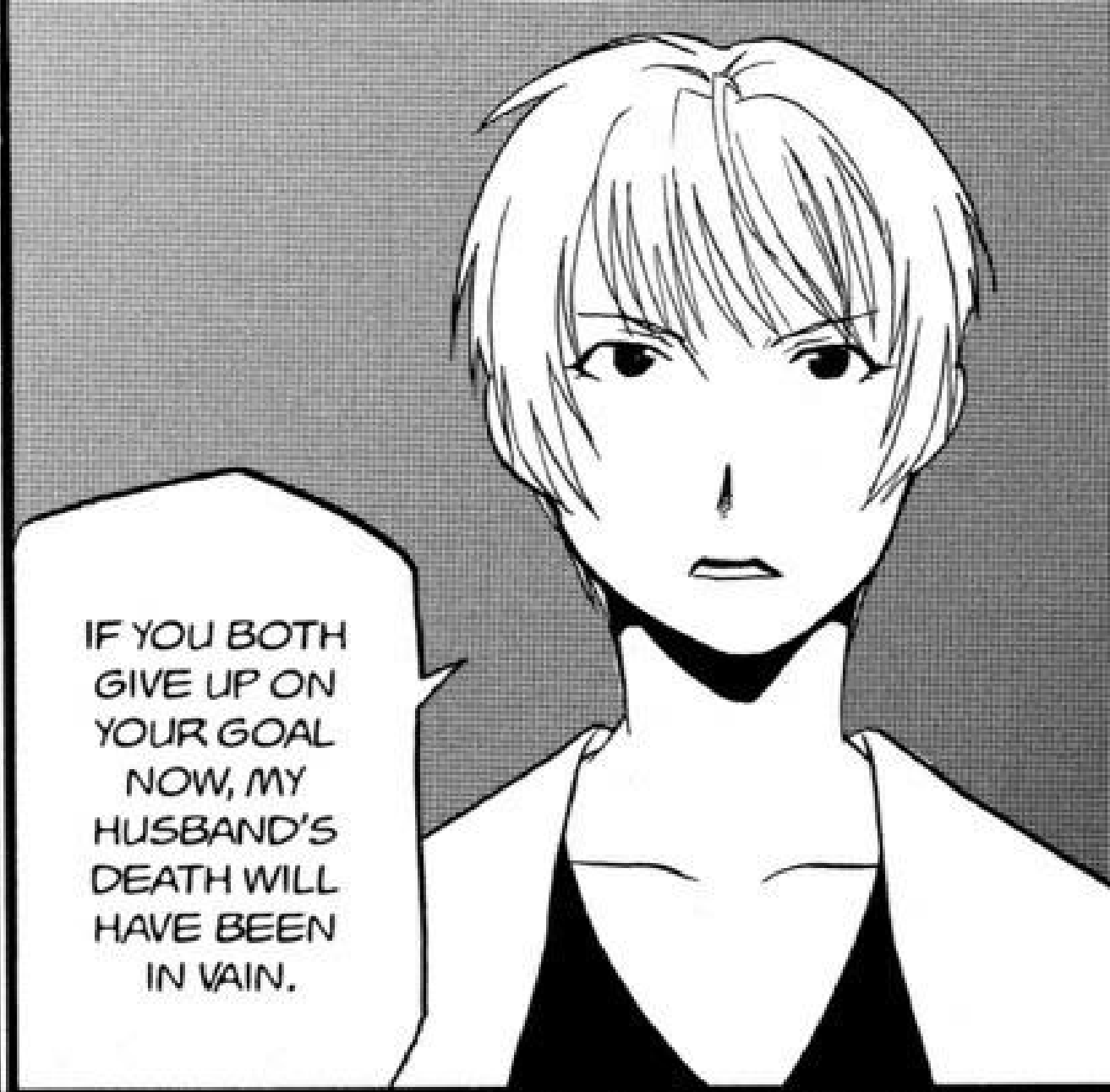
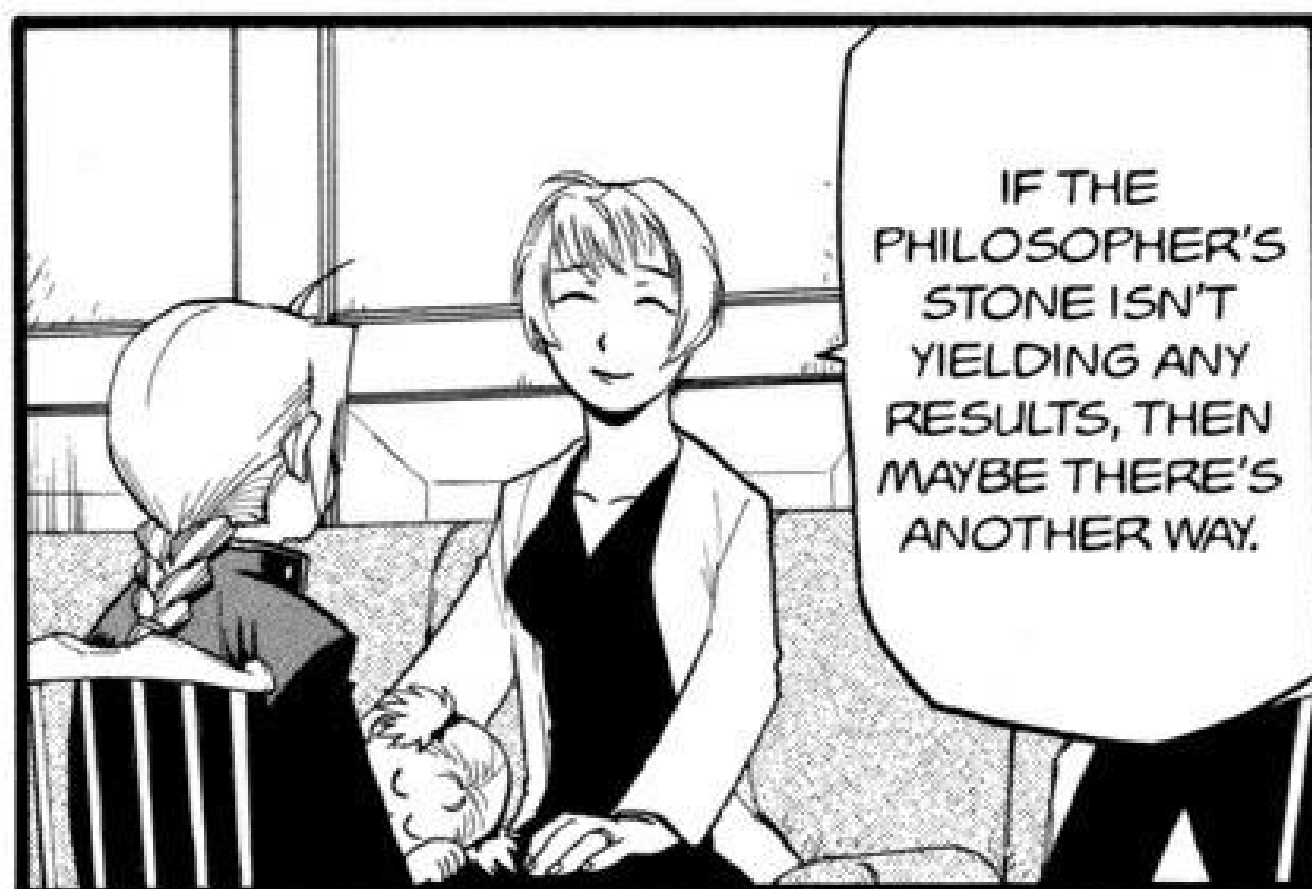
MOST LIKELY.

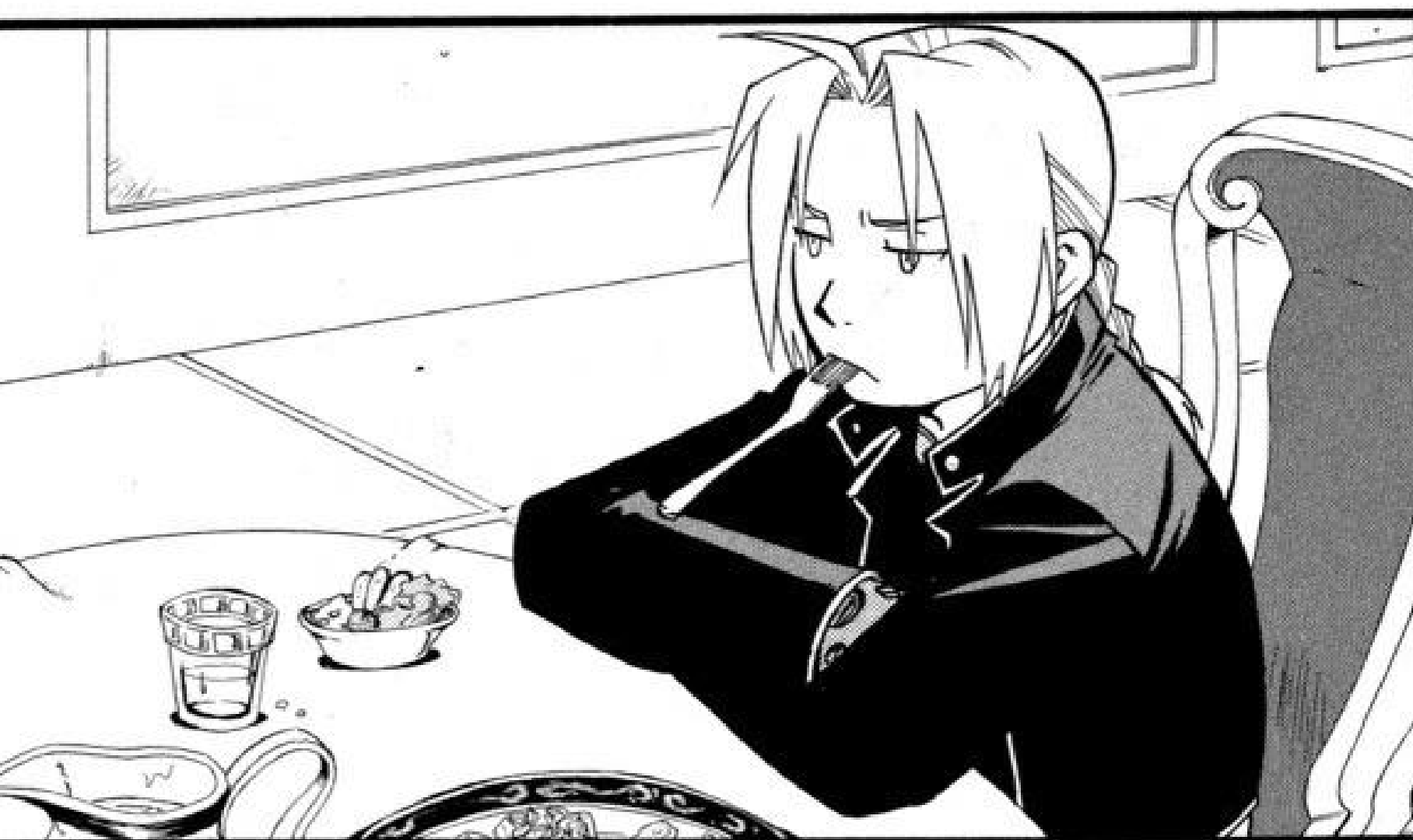
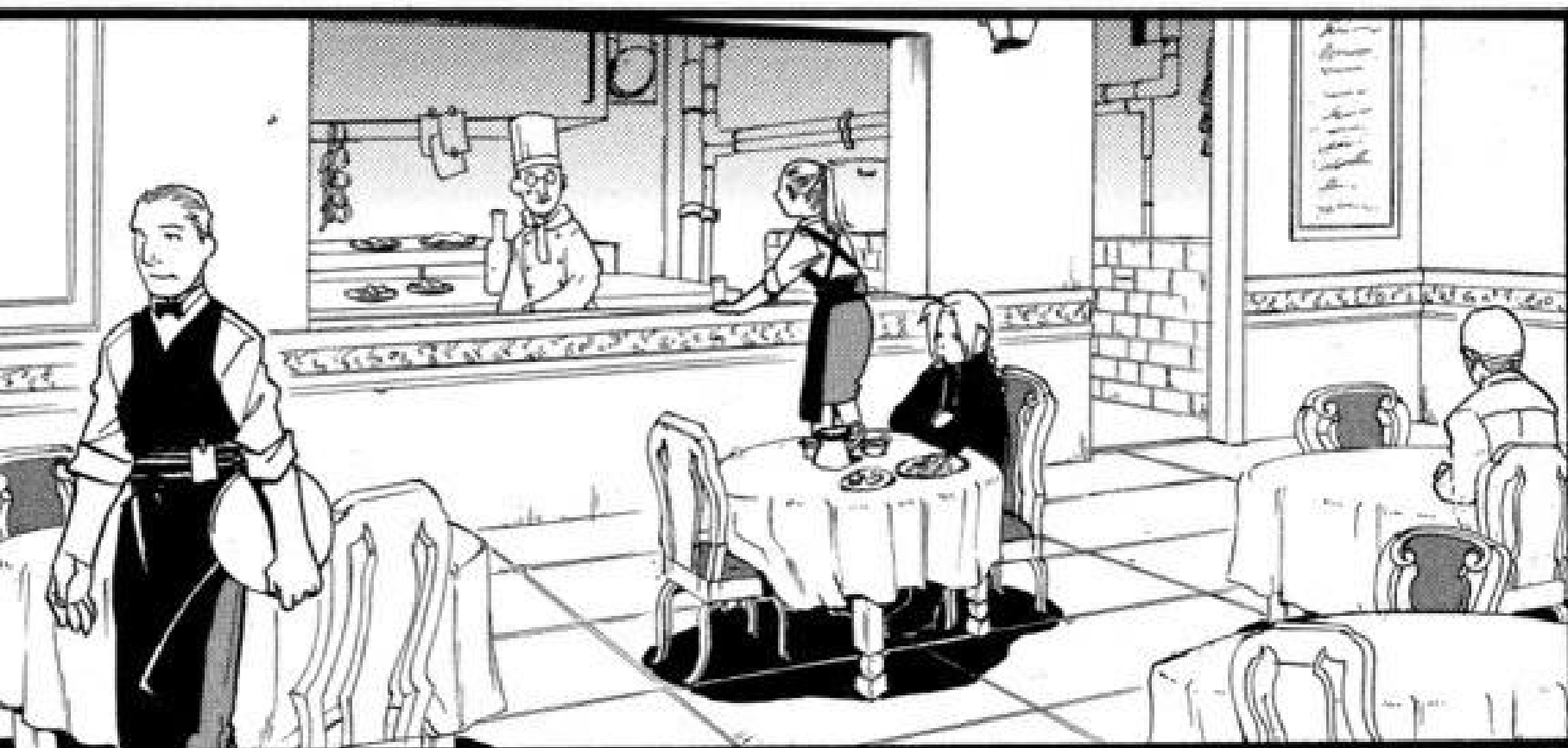
...AND SENT A WARNING FOR YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS ANY FURTHER?

SO THEY FOUND OUT THAT MY HUSBAND WAS ONTO THEM...

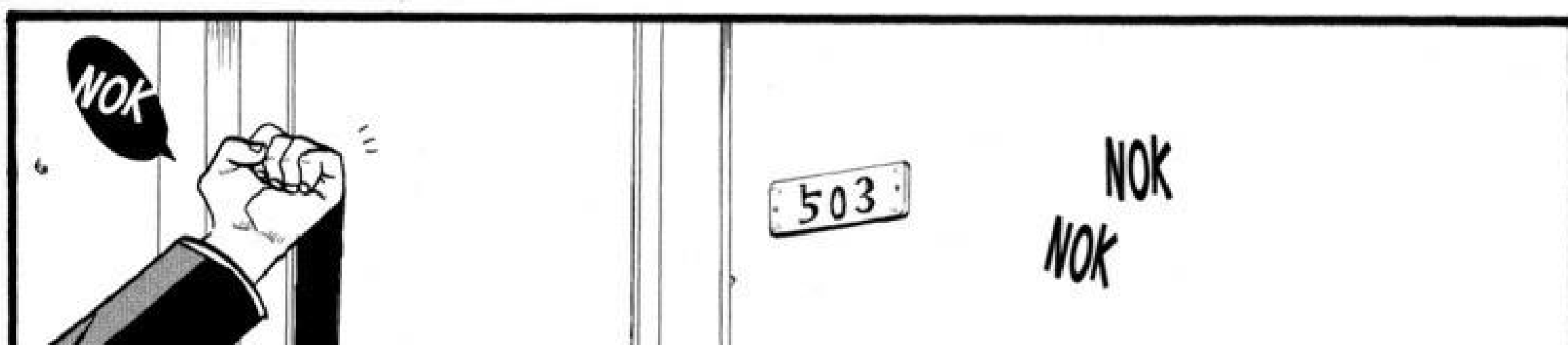
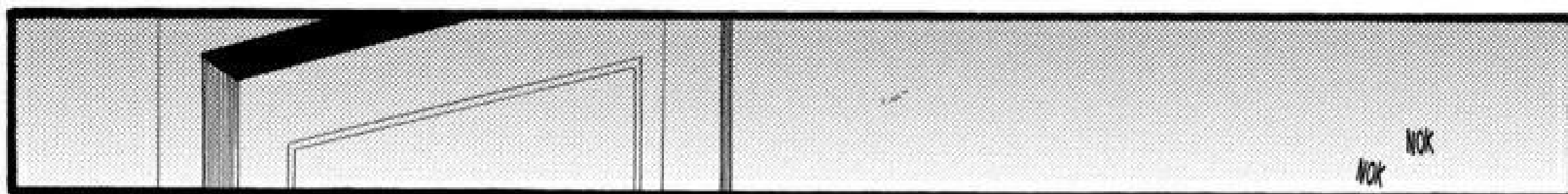
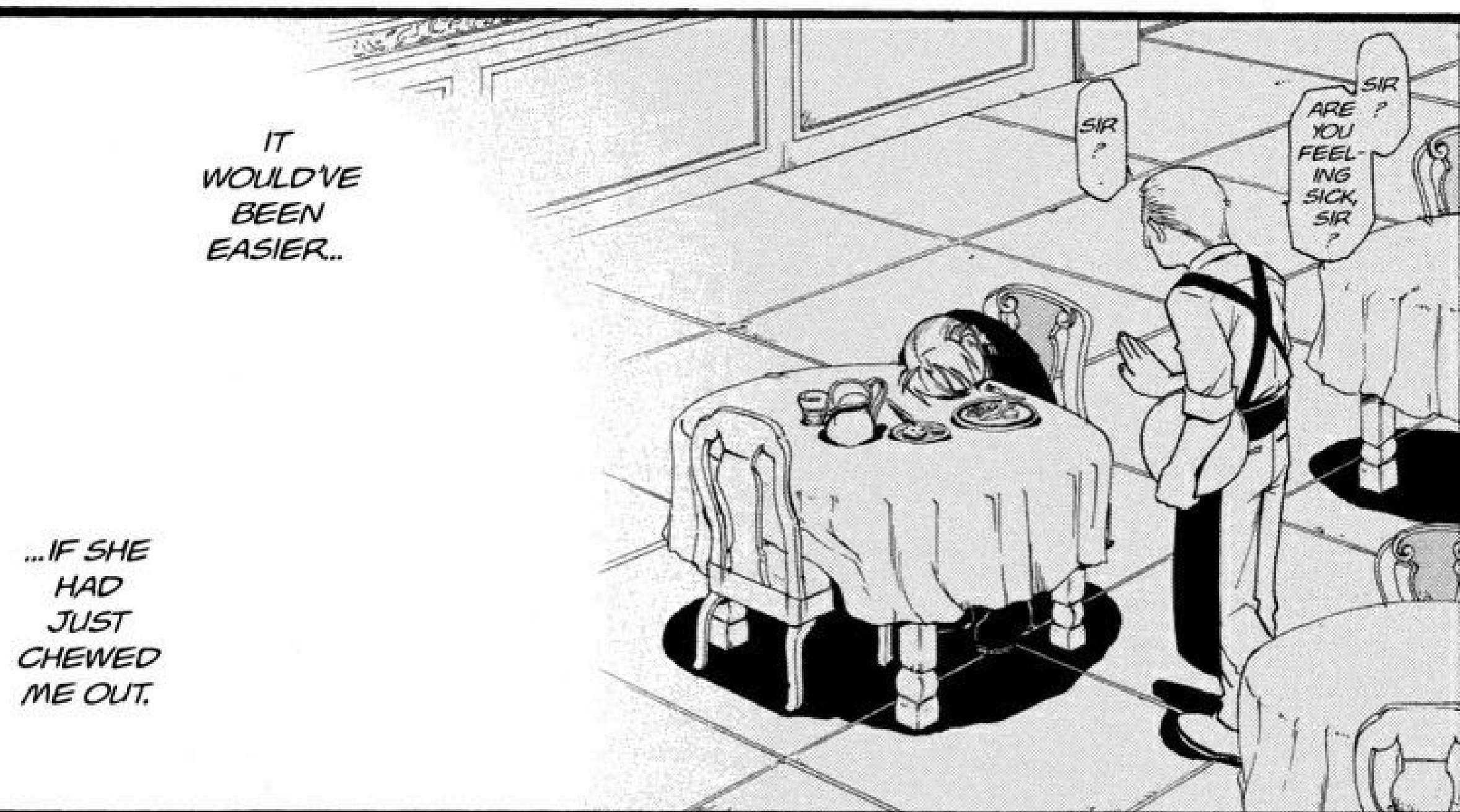
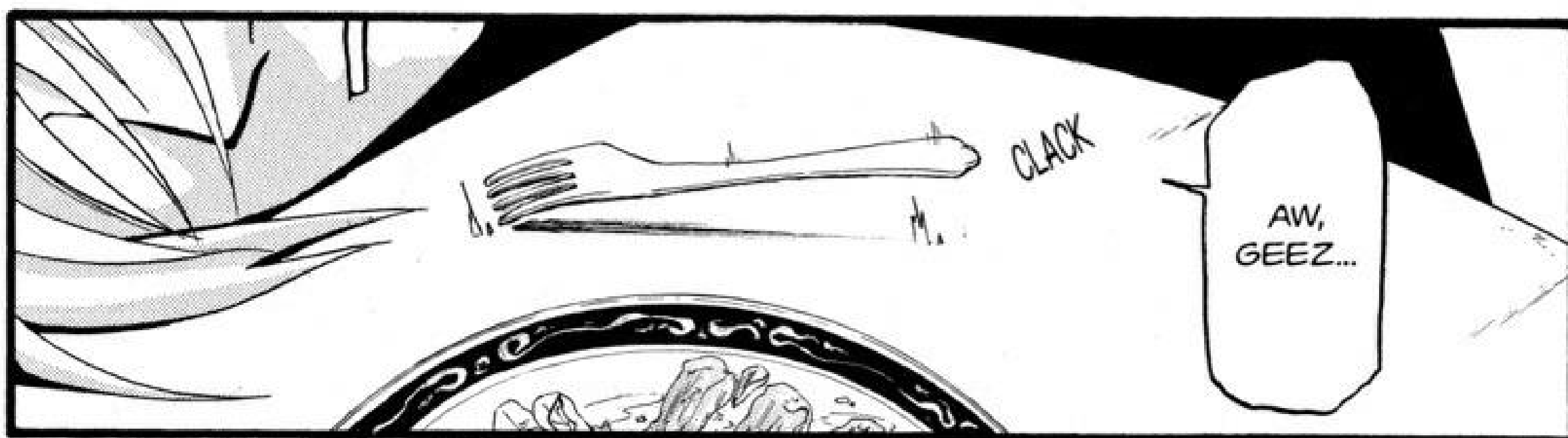




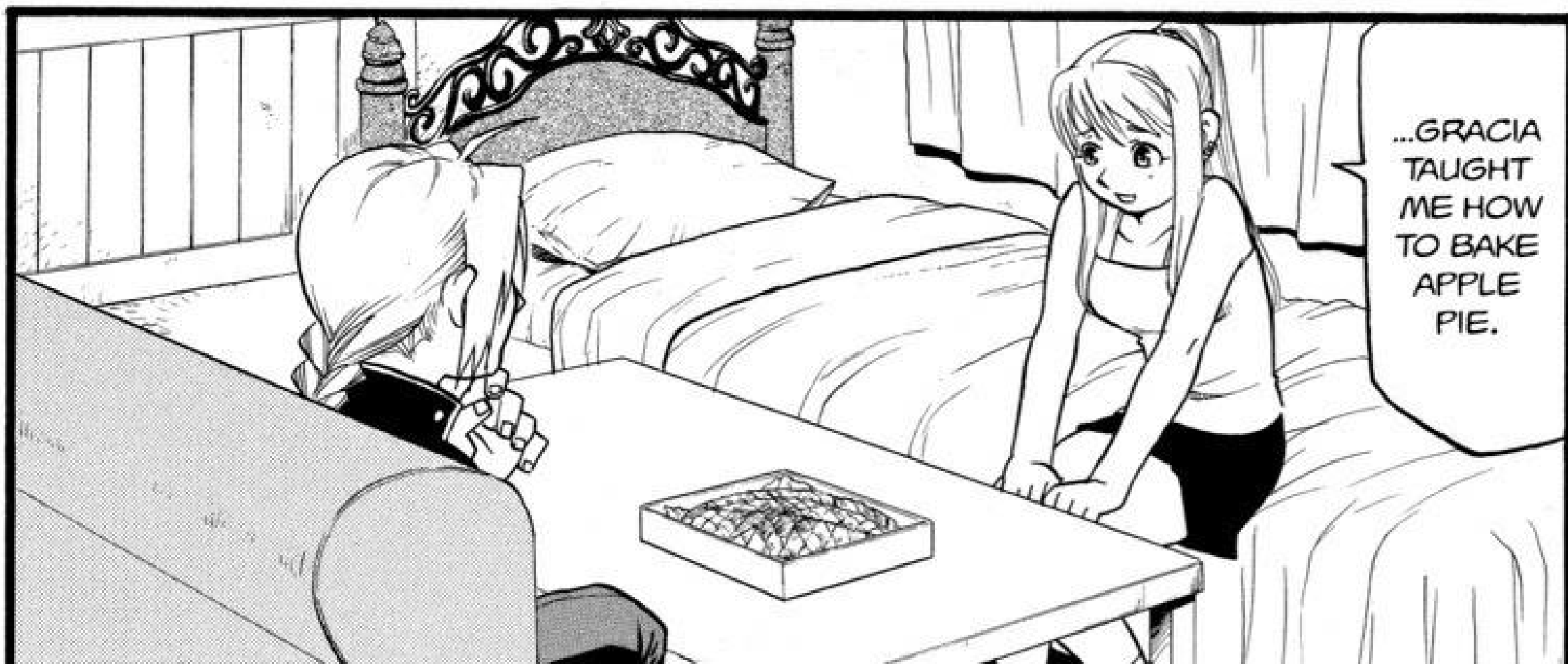
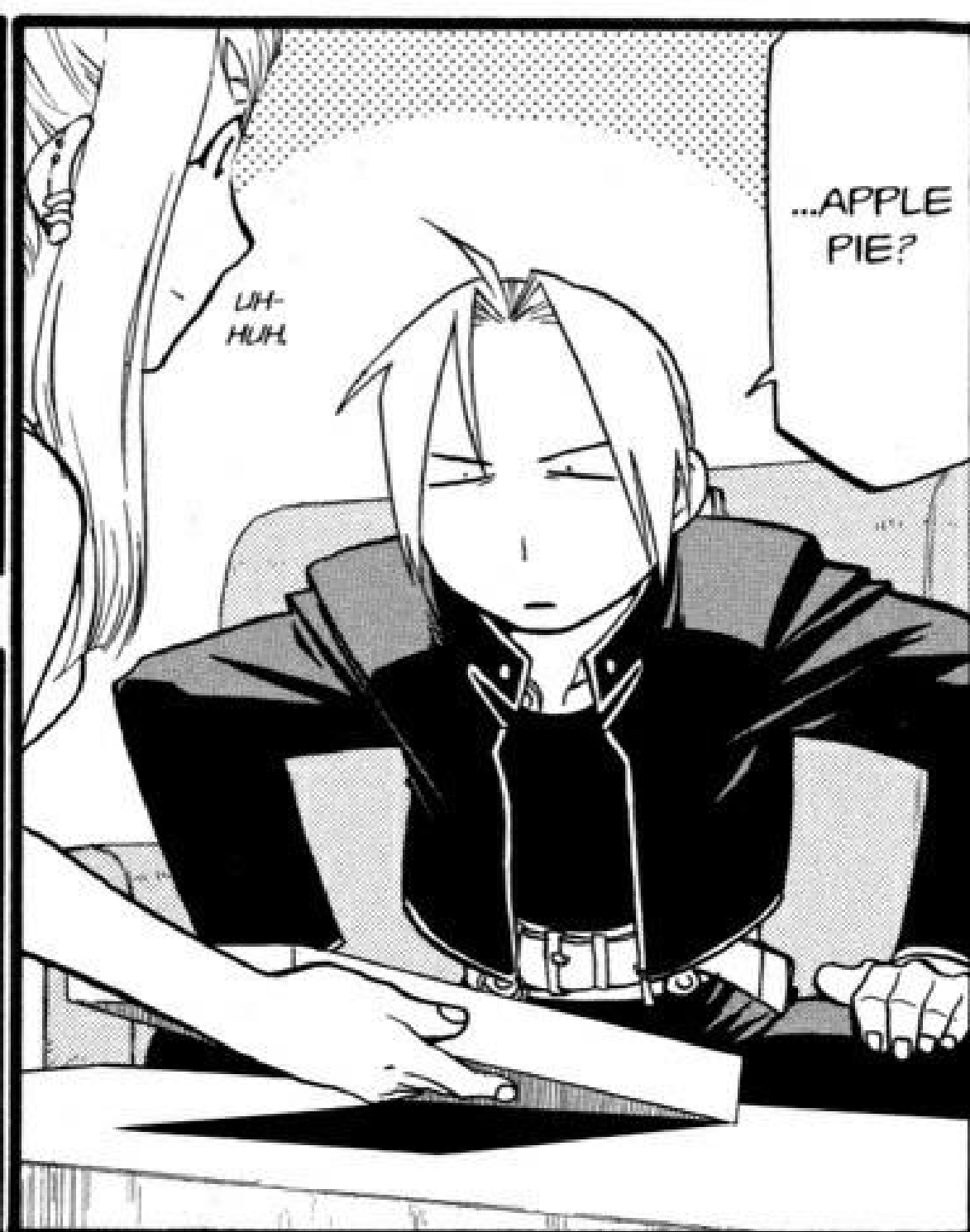
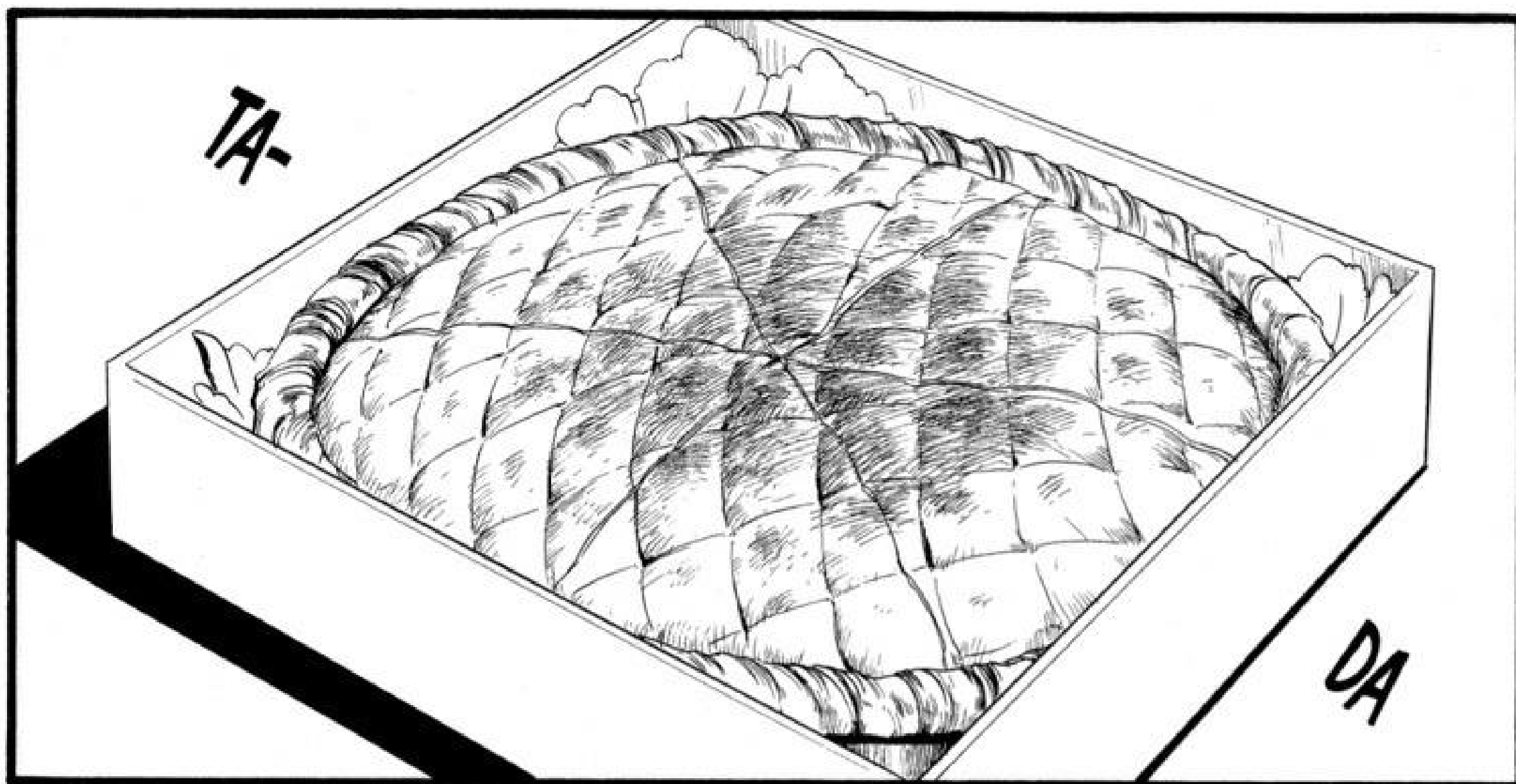










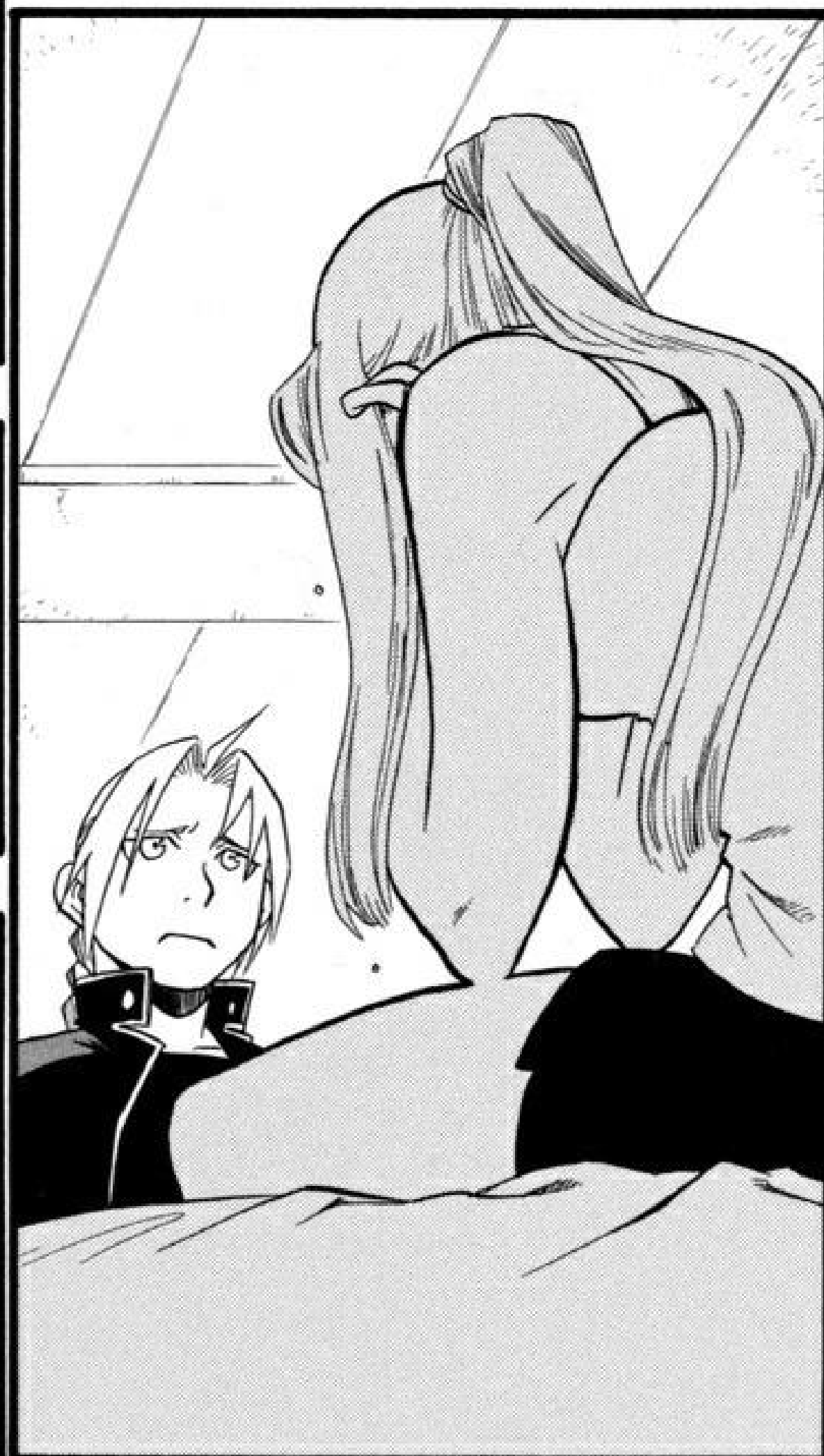
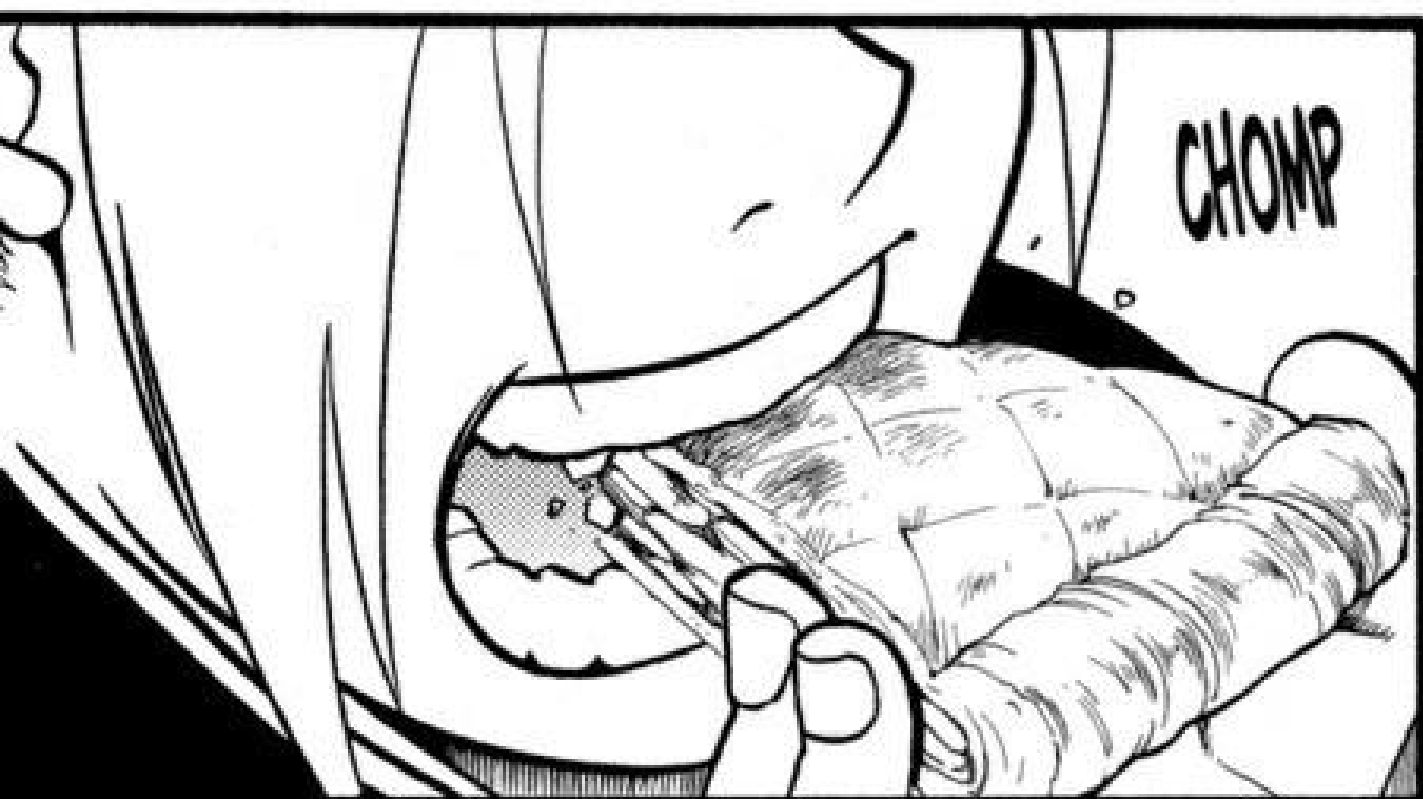
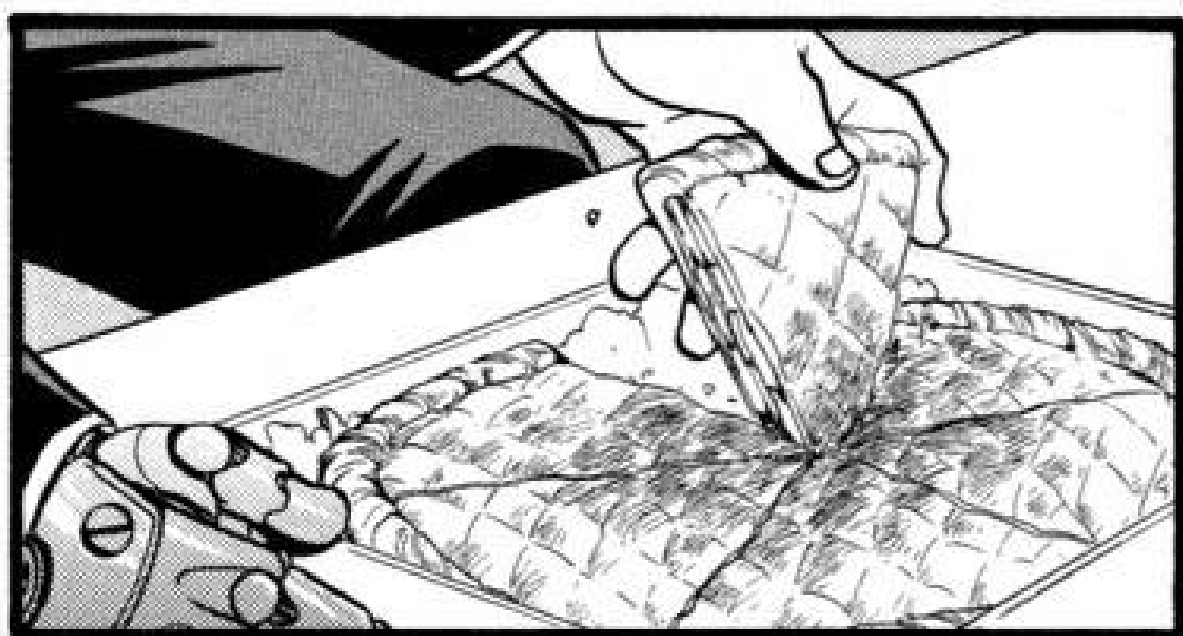


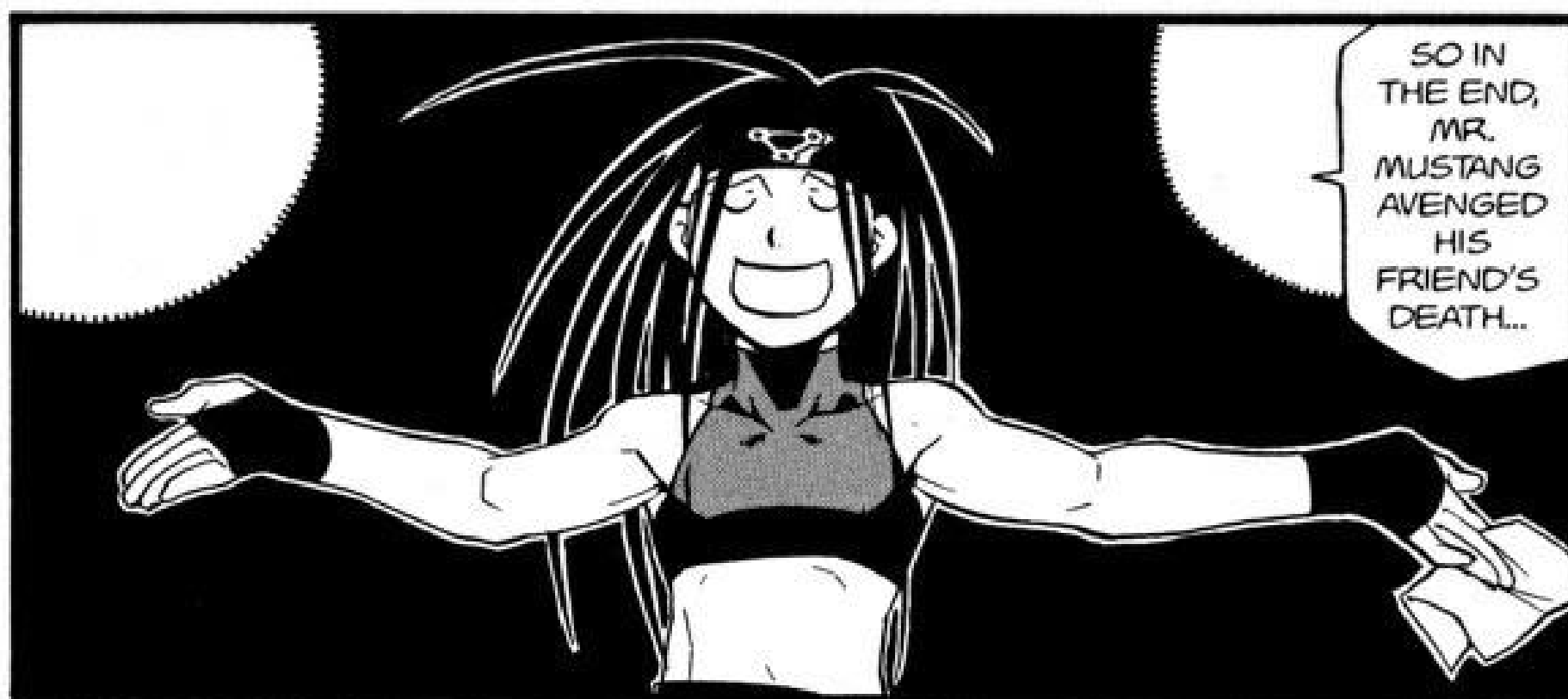
I
REALLY
WANT-
ED...

I
PRACTICED
A LOT
AFTER
THAT.

I DON'T
WANT TO
BRAG, BUT
I GOT
REALLY
GOOD
AT IT.

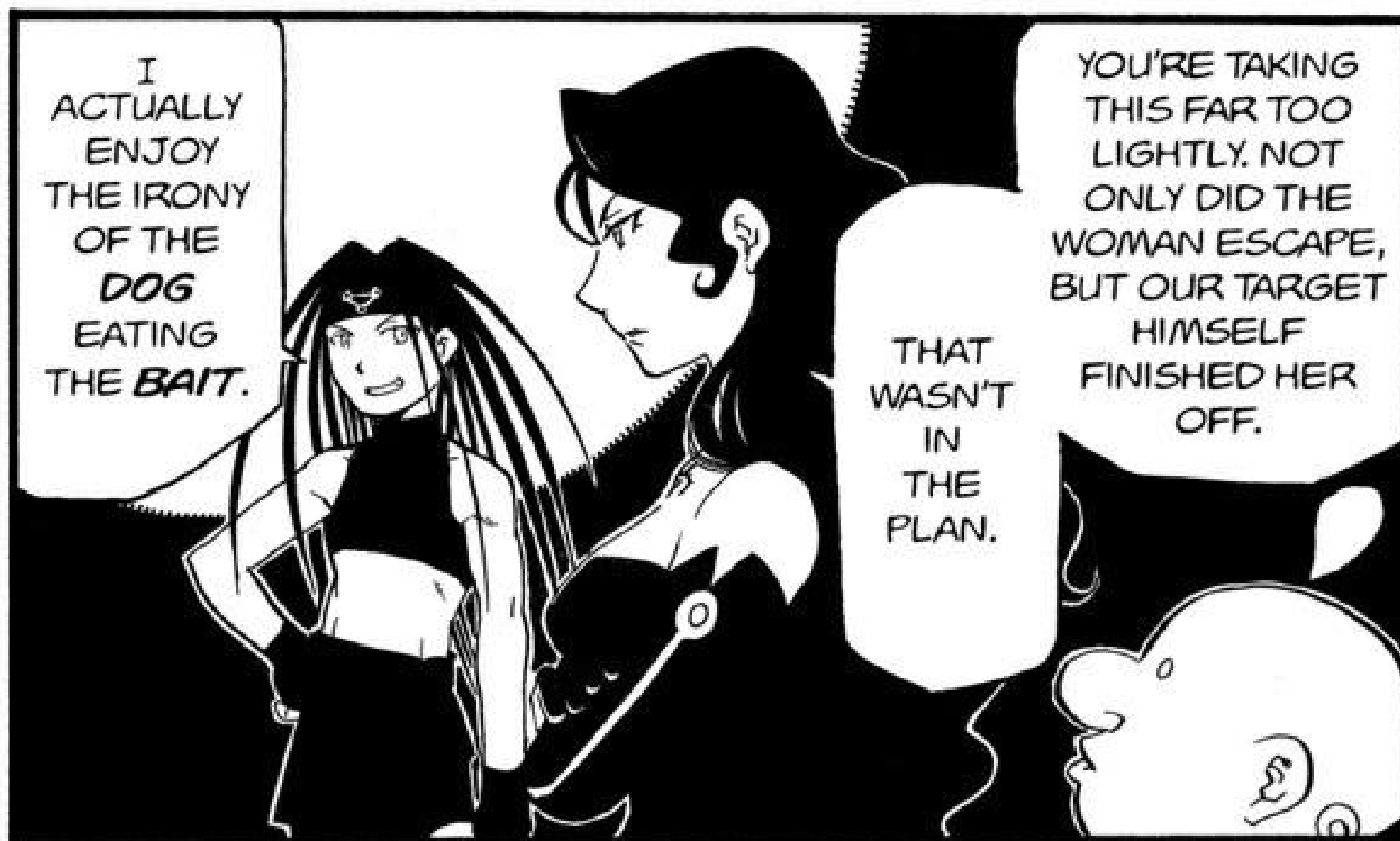
I
WANTED
MR.
HUGHES
TO
TRY IT
TOO!





SO IN
THE END,
MR.
MUSTANG
AVENGED
HIS
FRIEND'S
DEATH...

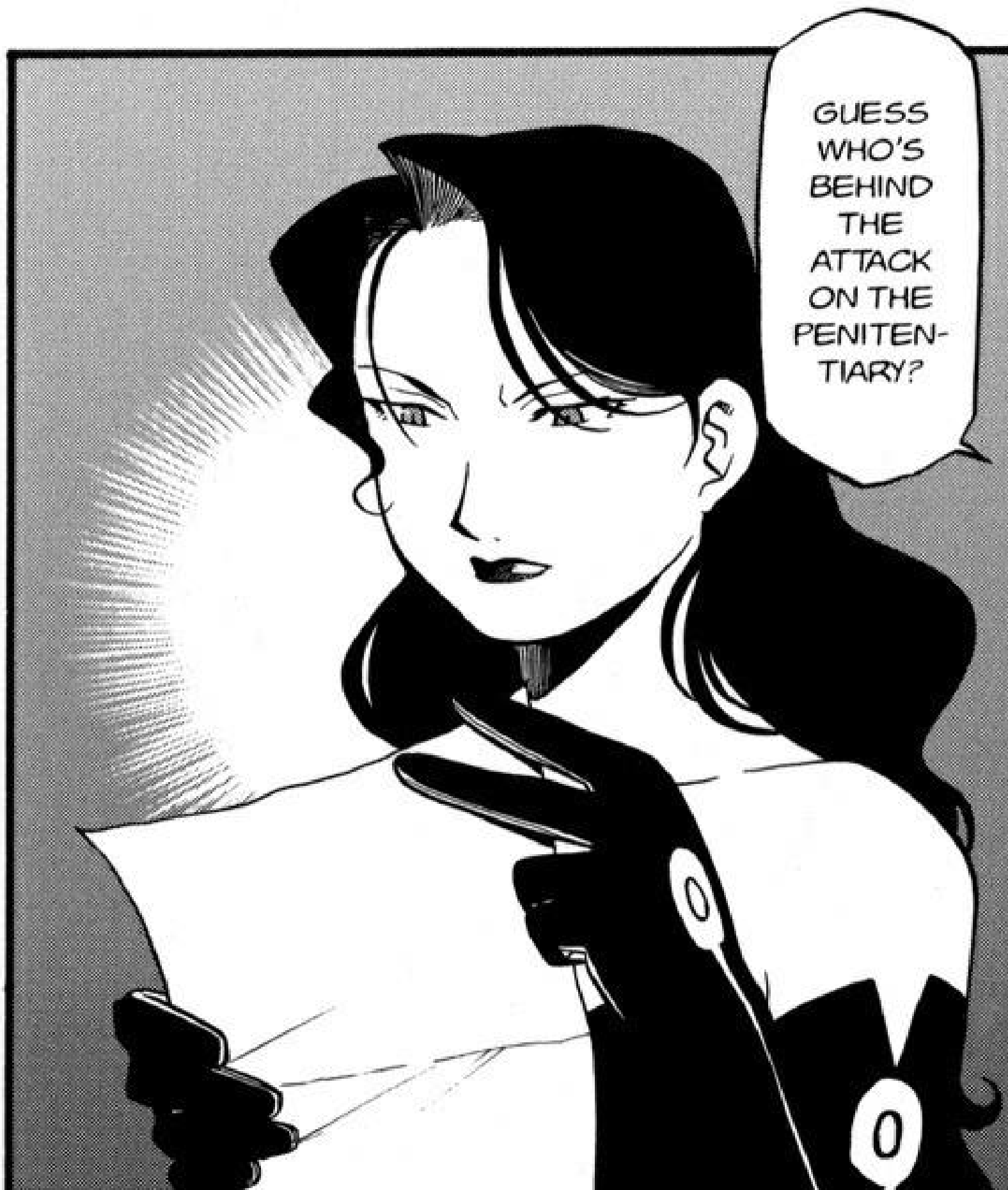
...AND
EVERYONE
LIVED
HAPPILY
EVER
AFTER.



I
ACTUALLY
ENJOY
THE IRONY
OF THE
DOG
EATING
THE **BAIT**.

THAT
WASN'T
IN
THE
PLAN.

YOU'RE TAKING
THIS FAR TOO
LIGHTLY. NOT
ONLY DID THE
WOMAN ESCAPE,
BUT OUR TARGET
HIMSELF
FINISHED HER
OFF.



GUESS
WHO'S
BEHIND
THE
ATTACK
ON THE PENITEN-
TIARY?



BESIDES,
OUR
LITTLE
TRAP
ATTRACT-
ED AN
UN-
EXPECTED
GUEST.



I THOUGHT
HE DIED WHEN
LABORATORY
NUMBER FIVE
COLLAPSED.

OH
MY...



INTERESTING...
THERE'S A
CHANCE THAT
HE CAME IN
CONTACT WITH
THE FLAME
COLONEL.



WE
NEED
MORE
HELP
!

SHUT
UP,
YOU
OLD
MAID
!

KLAK

IN
OTHER
WORDS,
YOU
DON'T
HAVE
A
USE-
CLUE.
LESS.

NOT
EXACTLY...
HE'S REALLY
QUICK AND
GOOD AT
HIDING, JUST
LIKE WHEN
HE WAS
STILL ALIVE.

DO
YOU
KNOW
WHERE
HE
FLED
TO?



KREE

ONE OF
THESE
WILL GIVE
US ALL
THE HELP
WE NEED.

EEAK









FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST